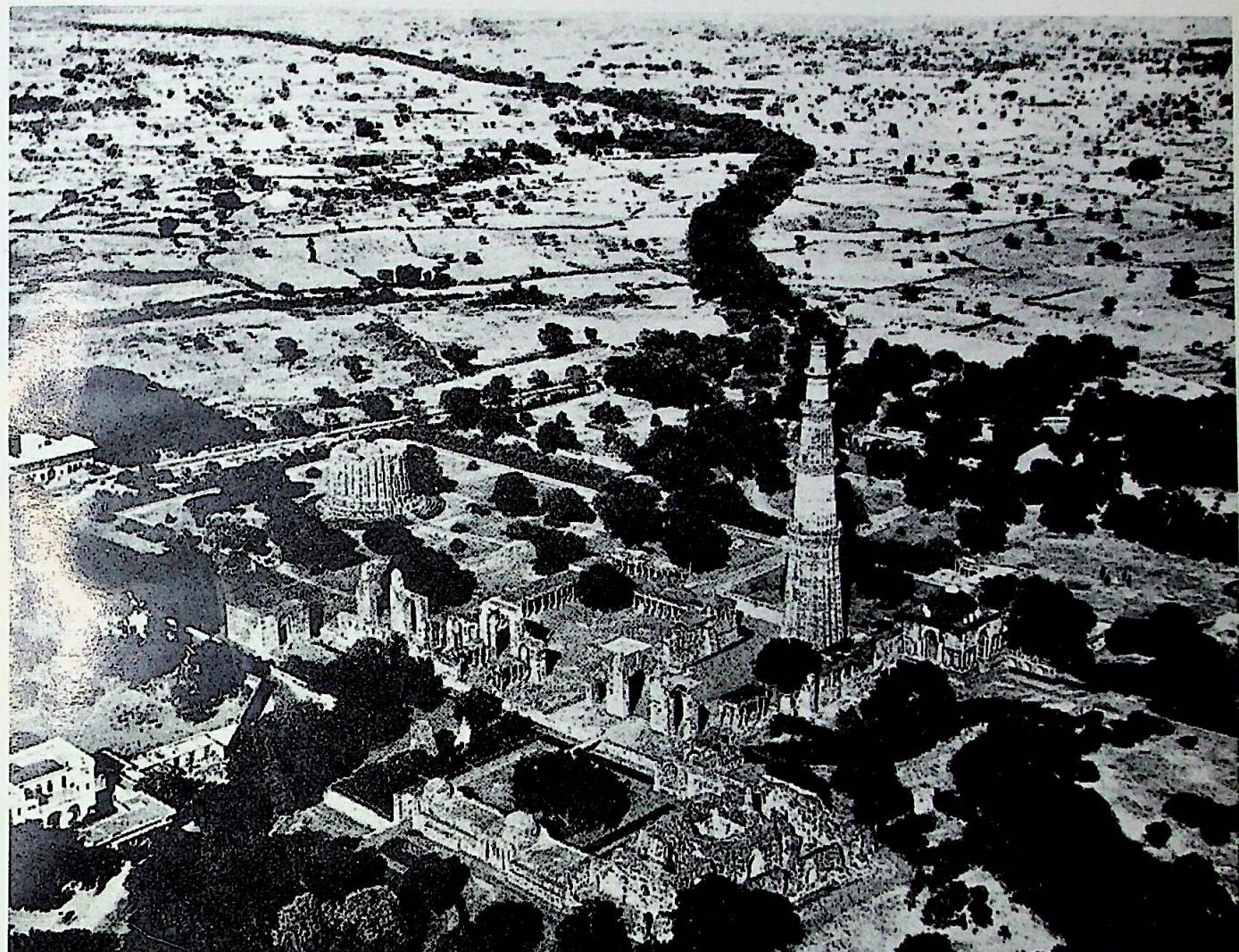


DELHI
THRESHOLD OF THE ORIENT
(Studies in Archaeological Investigations)

B.R. MANI



DELHI

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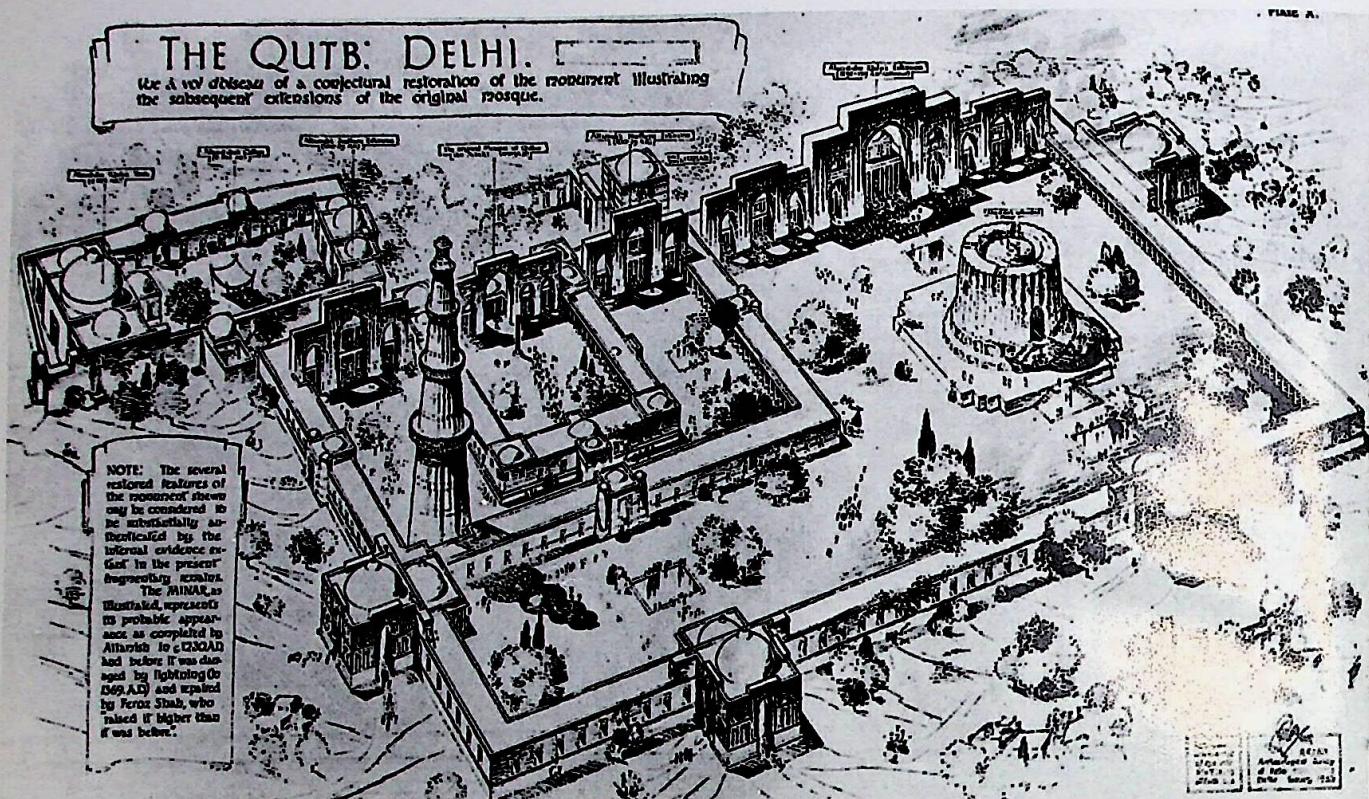
(Studies in Archaeological Investigations)

B.R. Mani



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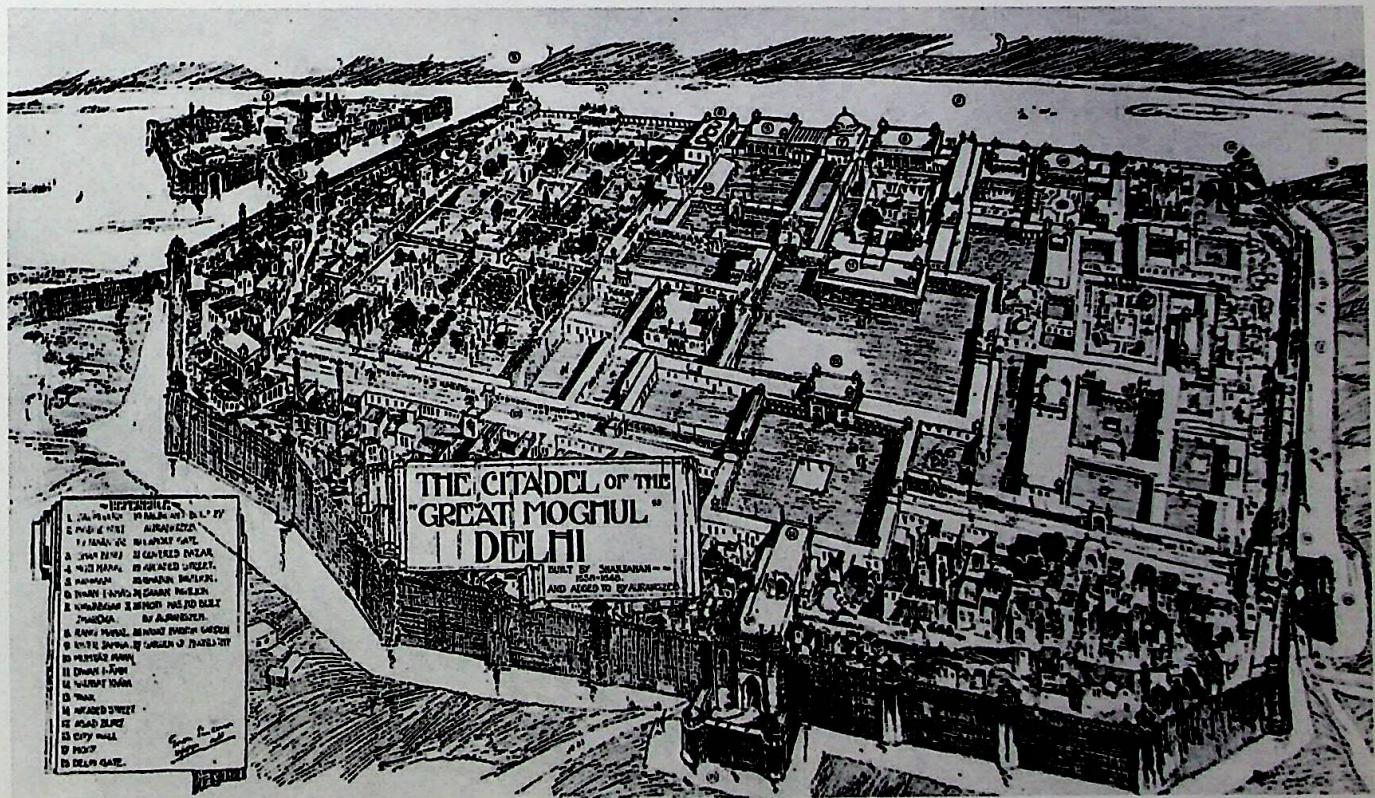
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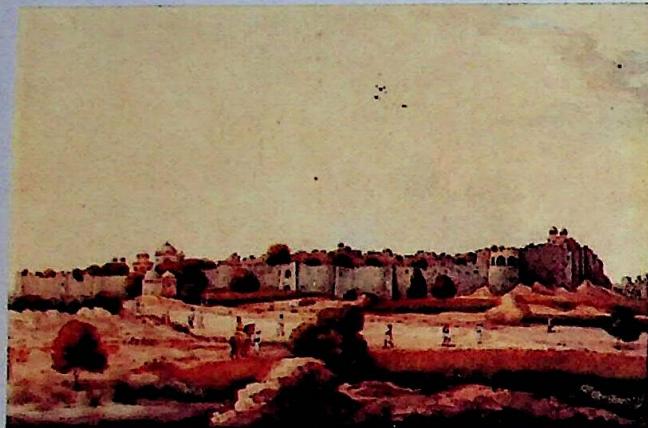
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To
Pu-Mum
My
Loving & Respected
Parents





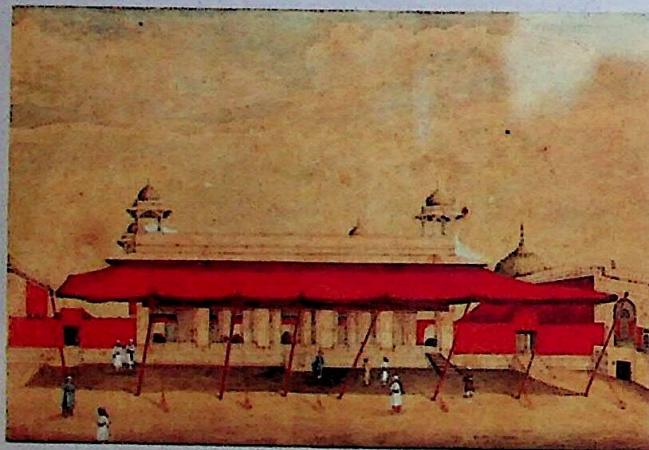
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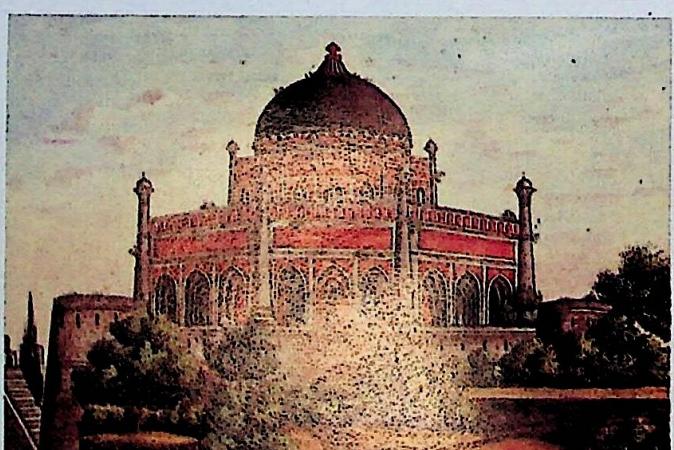
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Scenic Splendours

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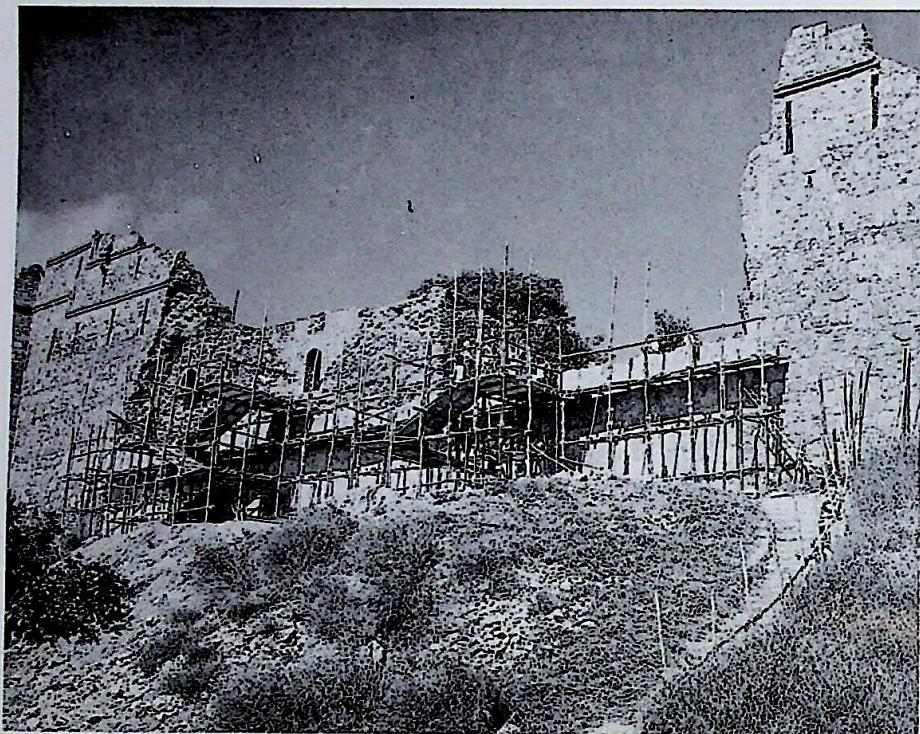
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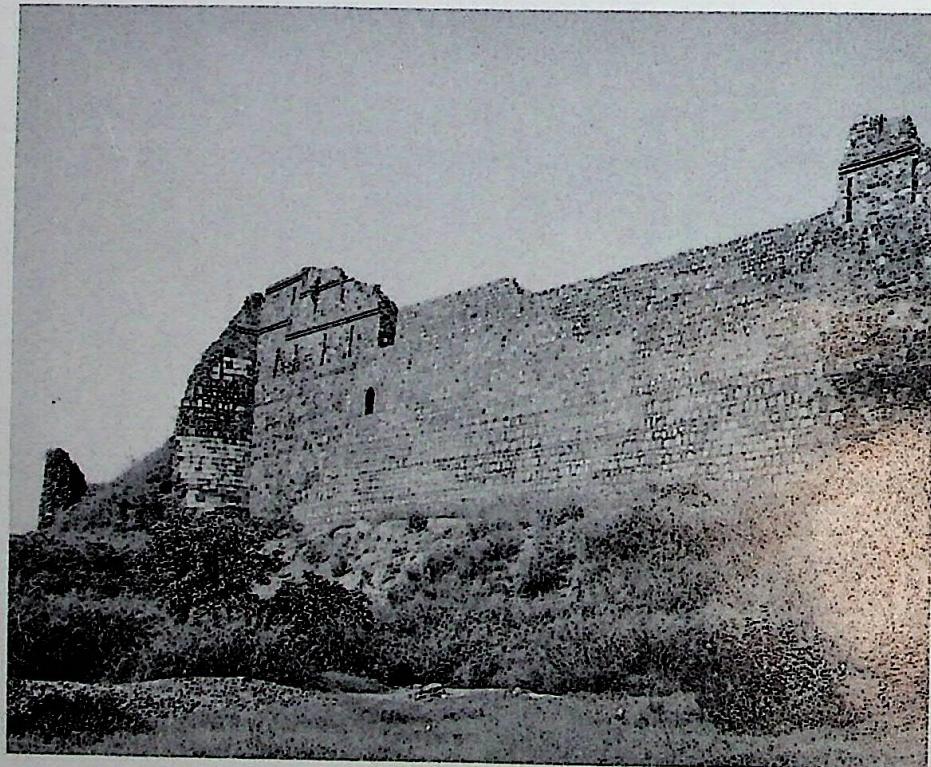
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Preface

The antiquity of Delhi is hidden underneath its thousand monuments. Recent lithic studies in the area have focused on functional, technological and environmental aspects of development of early man, of course, in the context of use and the communicative capacity in the remoteness of time and culture. The growth of civilisation during and after second millennium B.C. resultantly composed a picture of diffusion of cultural traits in this part, representative of sublime Indian ethos which was encountered by a number of depredationist forces in the course of history. The entrepreneurs and plunderers who were stunned to see this grandeur and majestic sight, right at the threshold of Indian mainland, yielded in obeisance and intermingled soon afterwards in the Indian cultural complex. Delhi has carried that spirit till now.

I have been fortunate enough to serve in Archaeological Survey of India in Delhi for the last ten years during most of which period I headed the Delhi Circle, getting opportunity to protect and conserve monuments of Delhi and excavate important sites of Lal Kot and Salimgarh besides conducting exploratory surveys in and around Delhi. A need was already felt to piece together different aspects of archaeological reconnaissance conducted so far in Delhi area by different archaeological teams for reconstructing the archaeology of the region. The present work is a humble attempt in this regard. Much has already been written about the existing monumental remains of the cultural heritage of Delhi. I, therefore, restrict to cover only the outline of archaeological investigations in the area.

In conducting archaeological researches, I constantly got encouragement and guidance from all the Directors General of the Archaeological Survey of India and I am, therefore, thankful to Sri R.C. Tripathi, Sri J.P. Joshi, Sri M.C. Joshi, Mrs Achala Moulik, Sri S.K. Mahapatra, Sri B.P. Singh and Sri Ajai Shankar. Senior officers of the Survey, Sri K.N. Dikshit, Sri K.M. Srivastava,

Sri W.H. Siddiqi, Sri R.G. Pandey, Dr C. Margabandhu, Dr I.K. Sarma, Sri C.L. Suri, Dr B.L. Nagarch, Sri B.M. Pande, Sri S.B. Mathur and Sri R.S. Bisht have always provided valuable suggestions and help. I am also thankful to Prof. B.B. Lal, Sri M.N. Deshpande, Sri Krishna Deva, Dr Y.D. Sharma, Dr S.P. Gupta, Dr C.B. Pandey, Prof. L. Gopal, Dr G.M. Bongard-Levin, Dr Henry F. Cleere, Prof. Maheshwari Prasad, Prof. P. Singh, Prof. G.V. Mitterwallner, Prof. Y. Zadneprovsky, Dr John M. Fritz and Col. G.S. Dhillon for their valuable advice during their visits of excavation sites at Lal Kot and Salimgarh and in classification of excavated material. Prof. M.K. Byrski, Ambassador of Poland to India and Mrs Loticia Ramos Thahani, Senator of Republic of the Philippines had given useful suggestions during their visit to Lal Kot excavations. I would like to record my grateful thanks for visit of excavation site and sincere advice to me by my friends Dr Rakesh Tewari, Director, U.P. State Archaeological Organisation, Dr K.S. Saraswat, Assistant Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Dr U.C. Chattopadhyaya, Reader, University of Allahabad, Mr M. Bouchenaki, Director, Division of Cultural Heritage, UNESCO, Dr Eric Klingelhöfer, Associate Professor of History in Mercer University, Mrs Madhu Bajpai, Secretary, Delhi Conservation Society and also to my senior colleagues in the Survey, Sri M.N. Katti, Sri J.P. Srivastava, Dr R.C. Agrawal and Dr Amarendra Nath. My colleagues Sri A.K. Sharma, Sri A.K. Sinha, Sri D.V. Sharma, Dr P.K. Mishra, Sri S.B. Ota, Sri M.K. Goel, Sri K. Gopakumaran, Sri S.S. Saar, Sri C.B. Patil, Sri I.D. Dwivedi, Capt. S.B. Ashri and Sri R.C. Mishra had offered valuable suggestions for which I am grateful to them. I am greatly indebted to my father Prof. C. Mani, my mother Mrs Prema Mani, my wife Dr Sushma Mani and to my children Ishan and Eksa for encouraging me and giving spontaneous assistance and help. My uncles Sri C.M. Mani, Sri C.B. Tripathi, Sri C.D. Tripathi, Capt. V.K. Pandey and Prof. R.C. Mishra Madhup have also provided moral support in my endeavour. My team members from the Survey Dr Urmila Sant, Sri K.K. Sharma, Mrs Purnima Ray, S/ Sri A.K. Khanna, Vishnu Kant, R.K. Verma, A.C. Chakravorty, M.K. Batra, D.K. Bhardwaj, S.K. Dikshit, R.B. Chhetri, R.K. Sachdeva, G. Nageshwar Rao, Jagdish Chander, M.S. Meyan, B.K. Chauhan, L.S. Mamani, V.P. Verma, Y.S. Nayal, R.S. Rana, Vinod Kumar, Suresh Chand Sankhyan, Suresh Choudhary, Sunil Kumar, Rajni Shankar, Sanjay Kumar, Charan Singh, Hemraj Barapatre, Ajai Kumar, A.K. Pandey, Narain Singh, D.N. Yadav and Mrs Charu Kalsi deserve my sincere thanks for their hard work and sincerity both at site and during preparation of this work.

All illustrations in the book have been published through the courtesy of the Archaeological Survey of India. Line drawings have either been prepared by the team members or reproduced from old published works by the officers of the Survey or writers like Olaf

Prufer, Ebba Koch and B.S.R. Babu. I acknowledge their courtesy. Finally, I am thankful to Mr Vikas Arya of the Aryan Books International, New Delhi for taking all pains to bring out this book in its excellent presentable form.

New Delhi
April 17, 1997

Buddha Rashmi Mani

Abbreviations

<i>A.R.A.S.I.</i>	... Annual Report of the Archaeological Survey of India
<i>A.S.I.R.</i>	... Cunningham's Archaeological Survey of India, Reports, Vols. I, IV and XX (Reprinted, Delhi 1966, 1969, 1972)
<i>E.I.</i>	... Epigraphia Indica
<i>I.A.R.</i>	... Indian Archaeology—A Review, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi
<i>M.A.S.I.</i>	... Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India
<i>M.S.L.</i>	... Mean sea level

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Introduction

History has witnessed Delhi as the capital-city of many kingdoms and empires. The foundation of the city of Indraprastha during the period of *Mahābhārata* war is well known. Successive waves of incursions from the west and internecine war rummaged and caused the gravity of power and urban conglomerate of Delhi shift toward resettlement on several occasions to cope with the unpredictable vicissitudes of the time and intentions of the rulers for making the city protected, resourceful and majestic.

The early history of Delhi is shrouded in mystery. Foundations of Indraprastha and establishment of power there by the Pāṇdavas after removal of jungles of Khāṇḍavaprastha are well recorded in the *Mahābhārata*. It seems that the area was earlier inhabited by the Nāga tribe who were pushed towards Mathura-Padmāvatī side in south and Pāñchāla region in the east. A number of literary references and inscriptive evidence of historical period are available to prove this theory.

It seems that the people or place known as Bodha or Bodhi, which finds mention in the *Mahābhārata* (VI. 10.37.38, 8.39) and *Mahābhāṣya* (11.4.48) of Patañjali,¹ was one of the nigamas of Indraprastha and regarded as a celebrated pilgrim centre. The same seems to be Nigambodh of the present, located on the right bank of Yamuna near Red Fort. Recent excavations at Salimgarh, in its vicinity, also suggest the same identification. The discovery of Aśoka's Minor Rock Edict² near East of Kailash in New Delhi provides further evidence of early historical activities in the area.

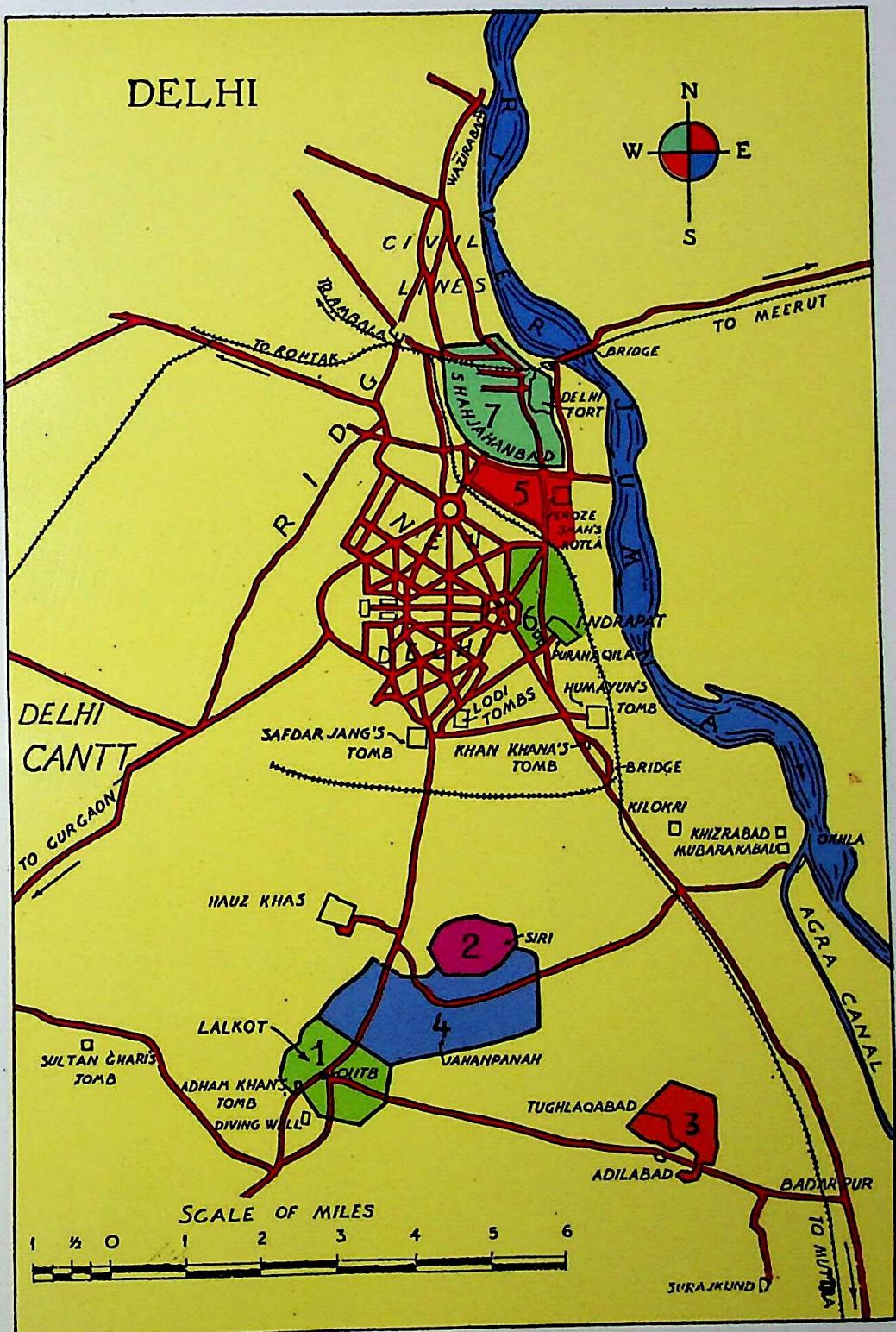
Scientific clearance works have been done in Delhi, particularly at important monuments besides regular excavation such as at Adilabad,³ Lal Kot⁴ and Purana Qila.⁵ While the earlier two excavations were confined to limited areas with limited scope, the last excavation was a major project as its land area was traditionally

known and formed the most important part of the city of Indraprastha where Humayun and Sher Shah had constructed various buildings and citadel of the Dinpanah city of Delhi in the sixteenth century. The trial digging here in 1954-55 had revealed the occurrence of Painted Grey Ware in the lower levels.⁶ Although during the excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India from 1969 to 1973, a continuously rich occupation from Maurya to Sunga, Kushan, Gupta, post-Gupta, Rajput, Delhi Sultanate up to the Mughal period was revealed at the site but no separate horizon of Painted Grey Ware culture could be traced while the PGW sherds were found in accumulations of later date. The occurrence of late Harappan pottery and Painted Grey Ware at Mandoli, Bhorgarh, Salimgarh and Dhansa including late and degenerate Siswal Ware Culture and PGW at Khera-Kalan⁷ and Badli-ki-Sarai⁸ and the discovery of late Harappan and Painted Grey Ware site of Kharkhari Nahar village near Najafgarh by the author⁹ push back the history of Delhi to the protohistoric period.

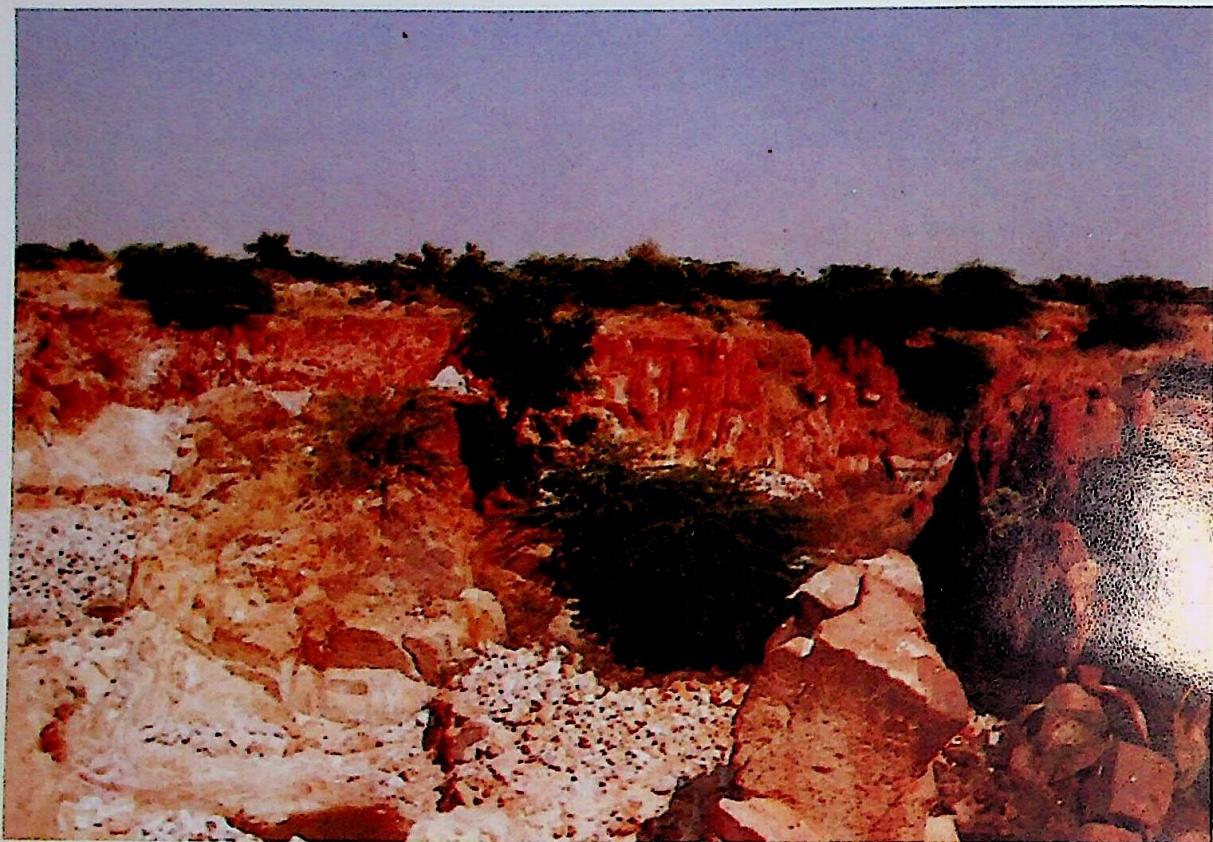
Foundation of the City

The legends known from local traditions connecting the name of Delhi with kings Dalip (Dilipa of Epics) or Delu, King of Kanauj¹⁰ do not contain any fact and it seems more possible that Indraprastha of the early historical period lost its grandeur some time around the Gupta period. Although the excavations of Purana Qila, the site of Indraprastha prove the continued habitation till the Mughal period, it is quite possible that Indraprastha lost its status much before the time of Anang Pal II, the Tomar ruler who is credited to have inhabited Delhi sometime between A.D. 1052 and 1060¹¹ when it came into existence around the Lal Kot near Mehrauli. Among the epigraphical evidences, the Palam baoli inscription of the time of Balban dated in the year A.D. 1274 (V.S. 1333) categorically says, "The land of Hariyānaka was first enjoyed by the Tomaras and then by the Cauhānas. It is now ruled by the Śaka kings."¹² A list of all the rulers of slave dynasty up to Balban follows who are all called Śaka rulers. The name of the city is given as Dhillipura and the alternative name of the city is given as Yoganipura (Yoginipura). It seems that the area of Lal Kot and surrounding city became known as Dhilli or Dhillikā after it was founded by the Tomars. The evidences of eighth-ninth century sculptures, and inscriptions including Iron Pillar inscription and architectural fragments from Qutb Archaeological Area suggest that during the Gupta-Post-Gupta and Pratihāra periods the area comprised a temple complex and was called Yoganipura and only later it became famous as Dhilli or Dhillikā.

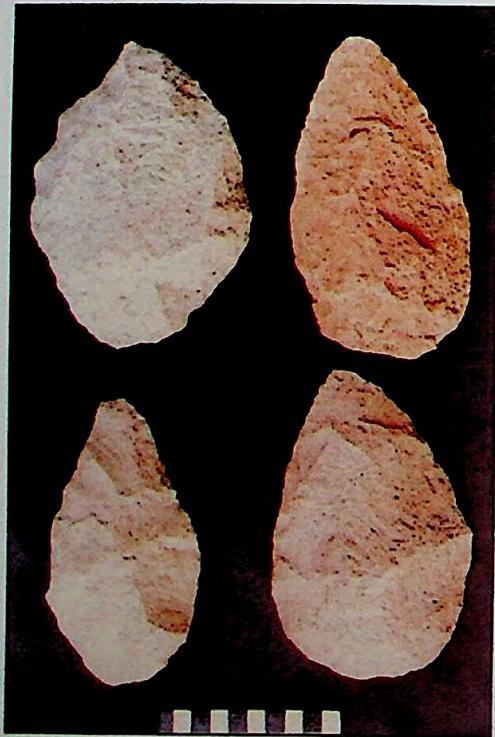
Similar description as given above is also found in the Sarban stone inscription¹³ of A.D. 1327 (V.S. 1384) of the time of Muhammad Tughlaq at village Sarban which was located about 5 miles south



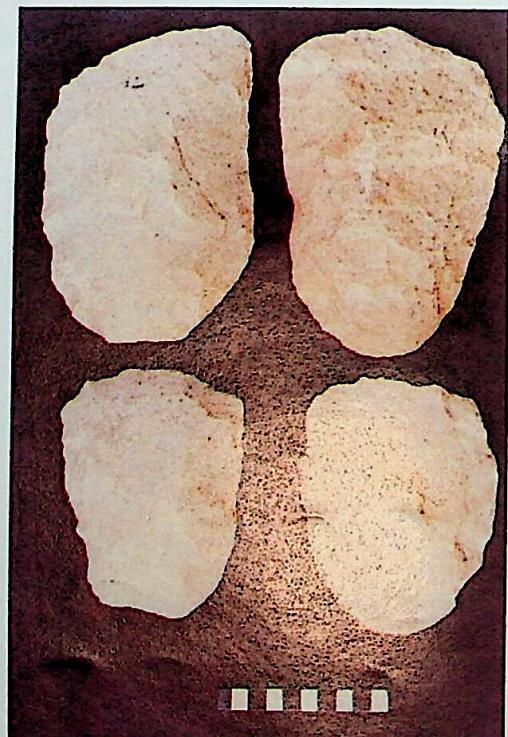
Pl. 1. Map of Delhi.



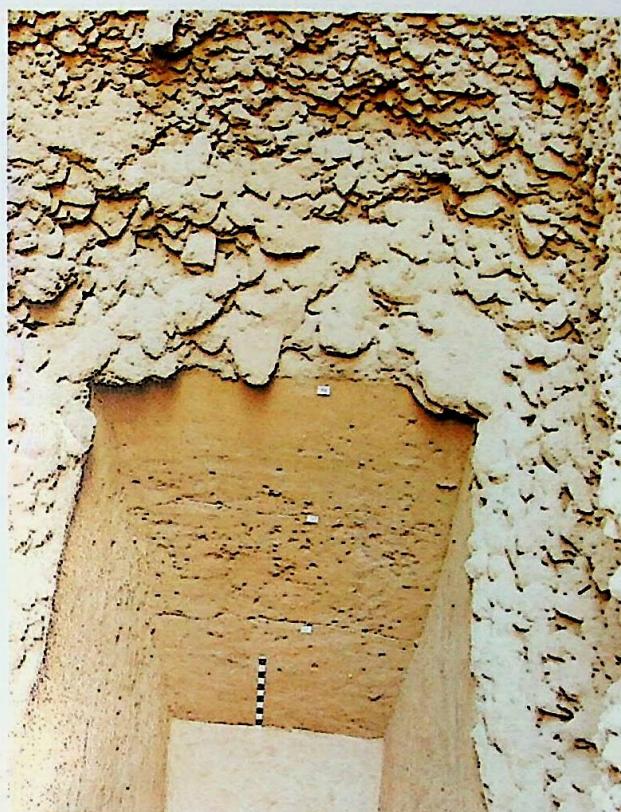
Pl. 2. Anangpur: Palaeolithic site.



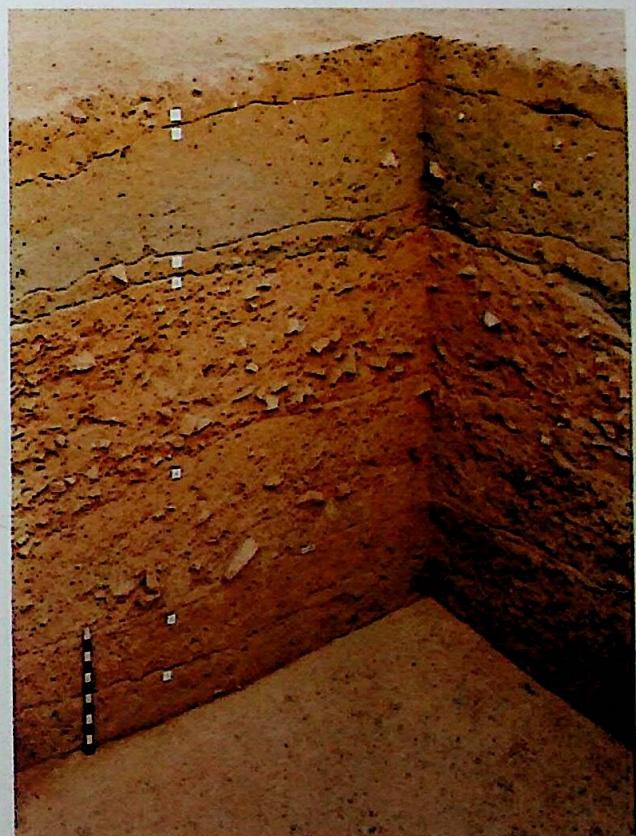
Pl. 3. Anangpur: Handaxes.



Pl. 4. Anangpur: Cleavers.



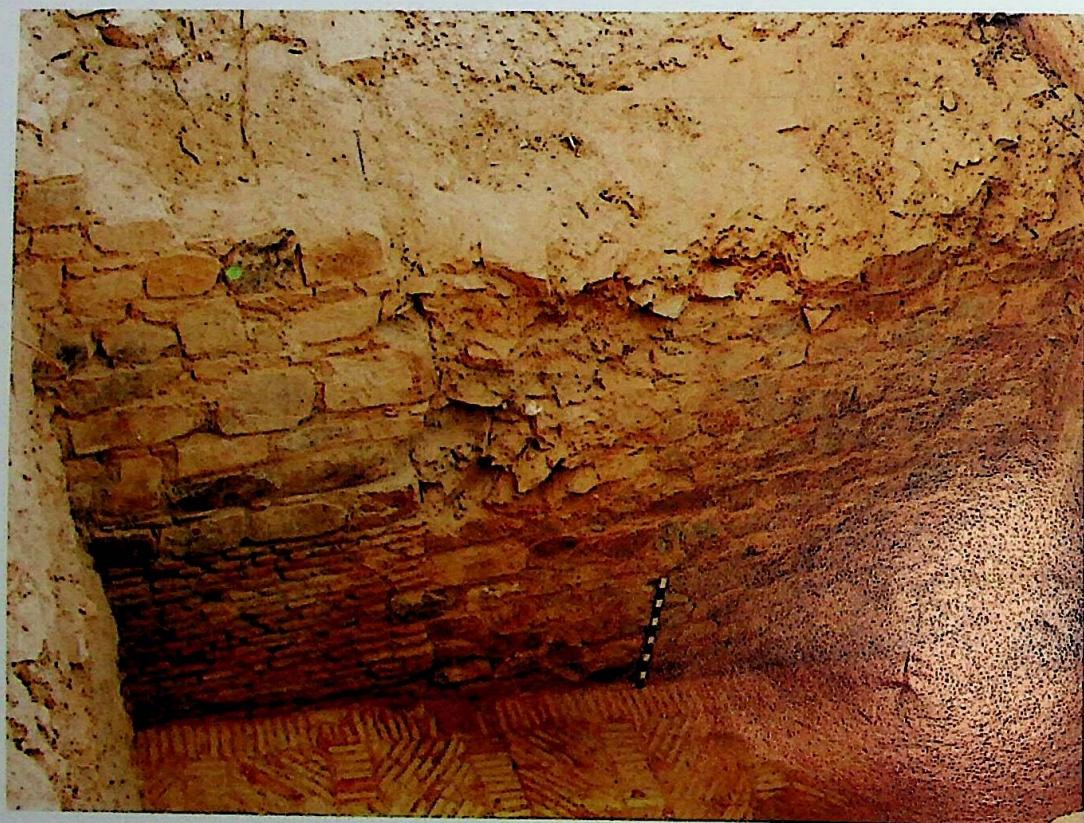
Pl. 5. Salimgarh 1994-95: Lower deposits, including that of PGW.



Pl. 6. Salimgarh 1994-95: Upper deposits and floor (Mughal period).



Pl. 7. Salimgarh 1994-95: Floor, hearth and wall (Mughal period).



Pl. 8. Salimgarh 1994-95: Northern gate. Pathway and wall (late Mughal period).



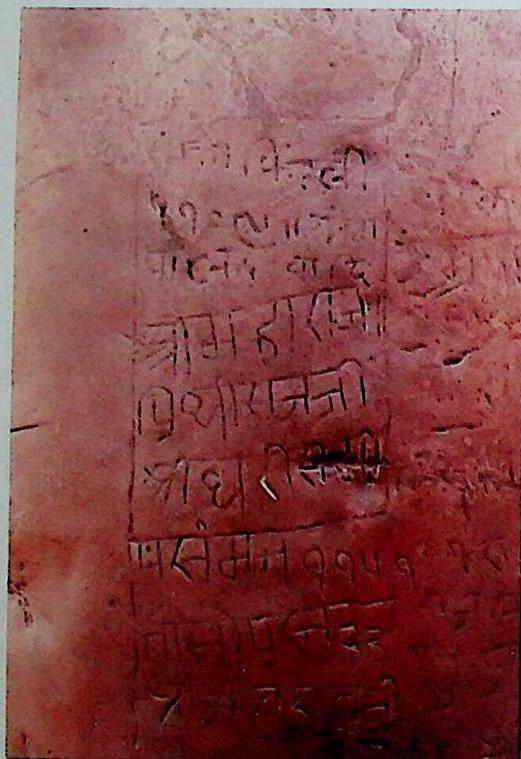
Pl. 9. Lal Kot 1994-95: Geo-Radar Survey in Anang Tal.



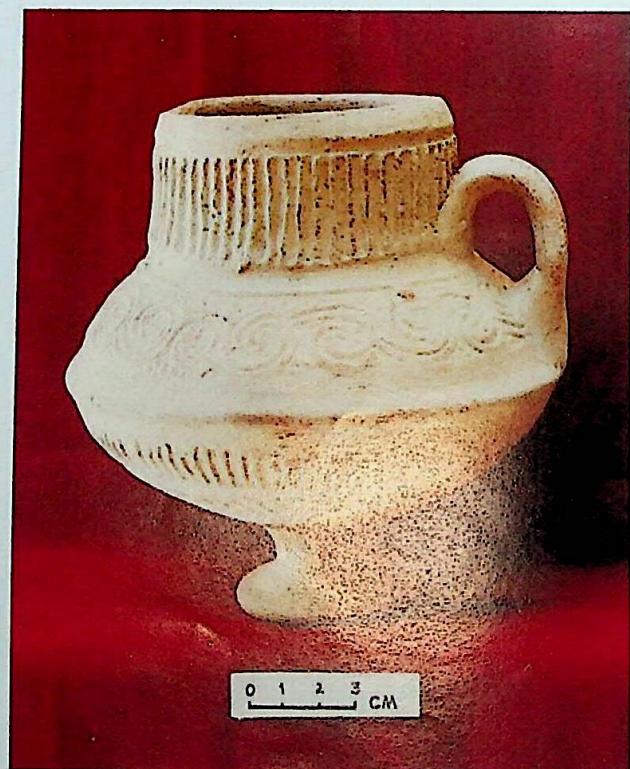
Pl. 10. Lal Kot 1992-95: General view of excavated trenches.



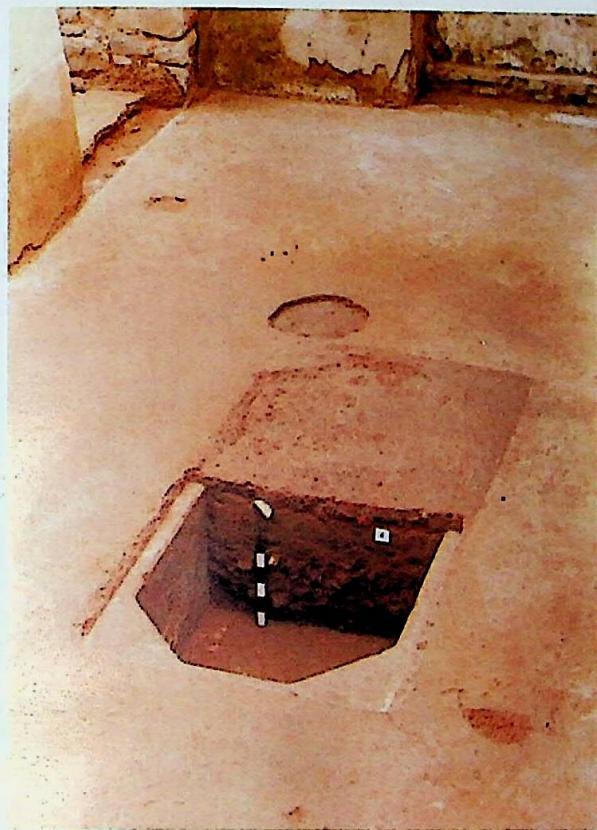
Pl. 11. Lal Kot 1992-95: View of excavations from Qutb.



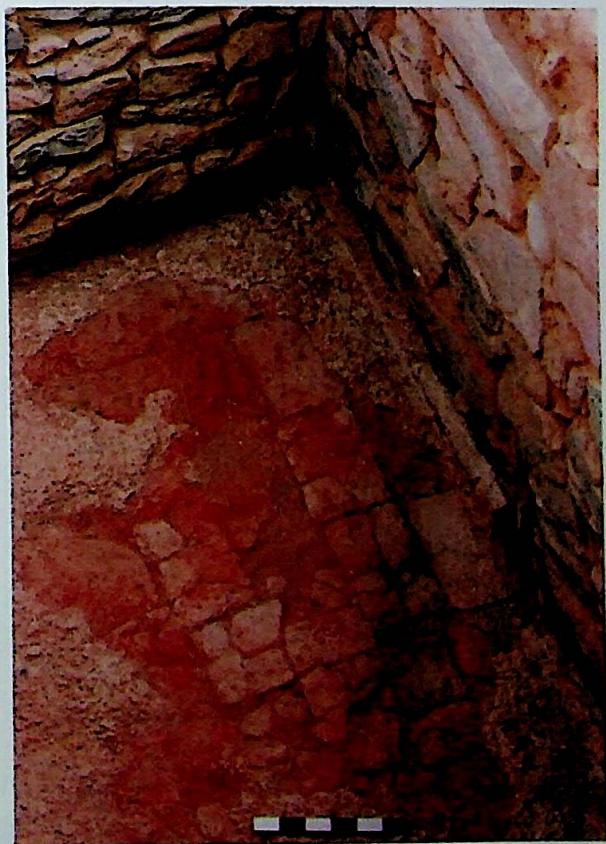
Pl. 12. Mehrauli Iron Pillar: Inscription mentioning Anang Pal and year 1109.



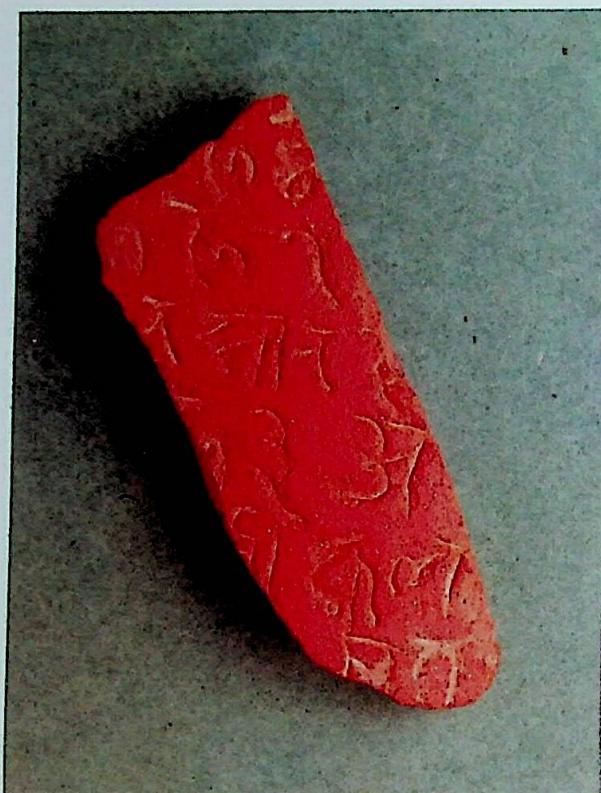
Pl. 13. Lal Kot 1992-95: Decorated pedestalled cup (Period II).



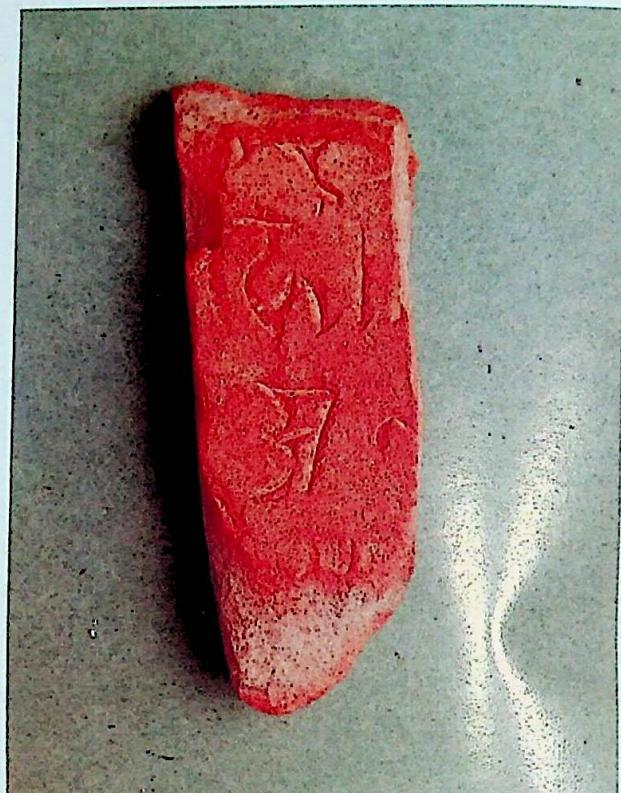
Pl. 14. Lal Kot 1992-95: Lime floor and water cistern (Phases I and II, Period II).



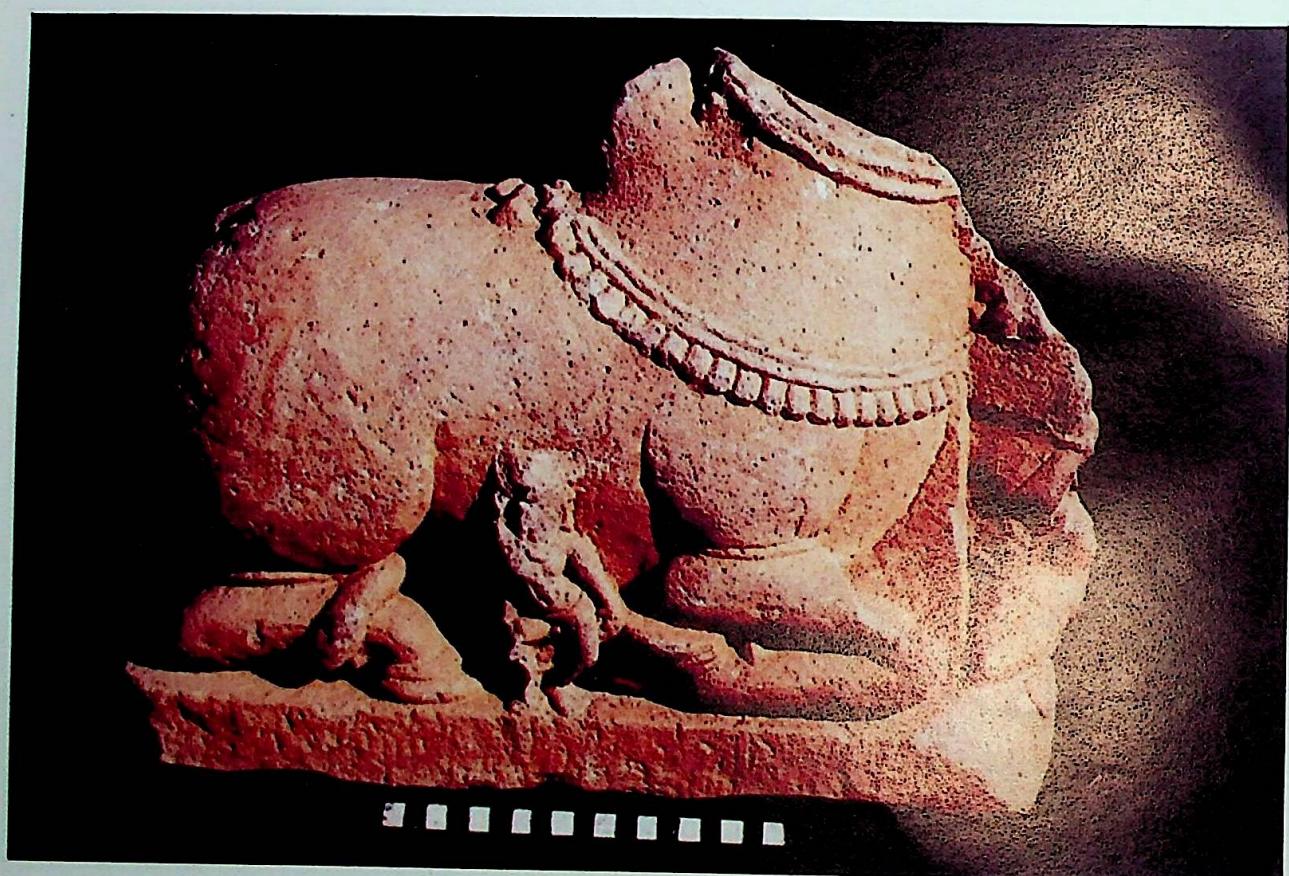
Pl. 15. Lal Kot 1992-95: Brick flooring with lime plaster (Period II).



Pl. 16. Lal Kot 1992-95: Inscribed red ware, outer surface (Period I).



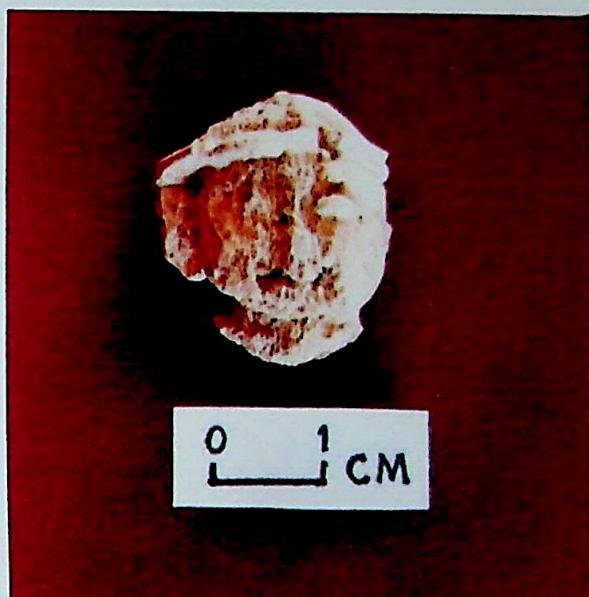
Pl. 17. Lal Kot 1992-95: Inscribed red ware, inner surface (Period I).



Pl. 18. Lal Kot 1992-95: Stone Nandi of Period I, recovered from a structure of Period II.



Pl. 19. Lal Kot 1992-95: Stone Ganesa (Period I).



Pl. 20. Lal Kot 1992-95: Ivory head (Period II).



Pl. 21. Lal Kot 1992-95: Copper bowl (Period II).



Pl. 22. Lal Kot 1992-95: Dice of ivory, bone and stone (Period II).



Pl. 23. Lal Kot 1992-95: Finger rings and pendants (Period II).



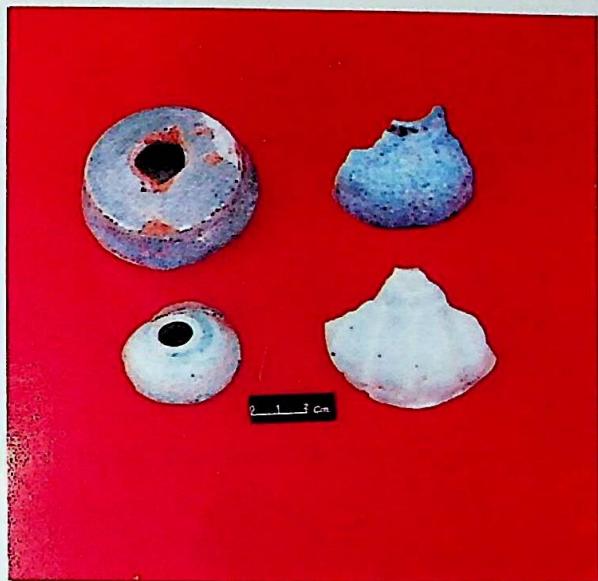
Pl. 24. Lal Kot 1992-95: Bangles of glass and ivory (Period II).



Pl. 25. Lal Kot 1992-95: Beads (Period II).



Pl. 26. Lal Kot 1992-95: Bone studs (Period II).



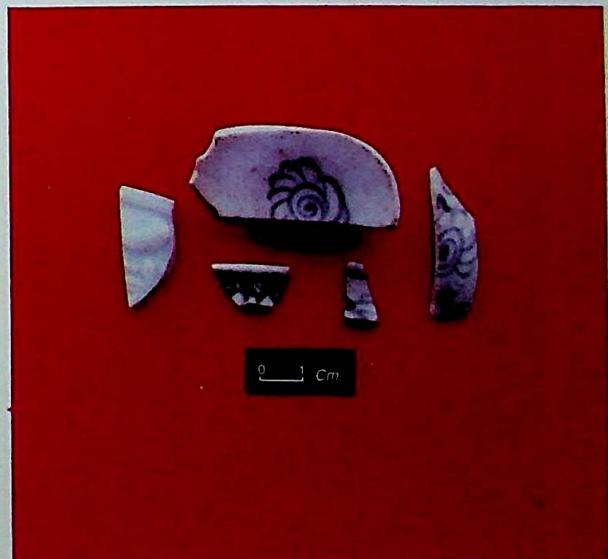
Pl. 27. Lal Kot 1992-95: Glazed inkpots or miniature pots (Period II).



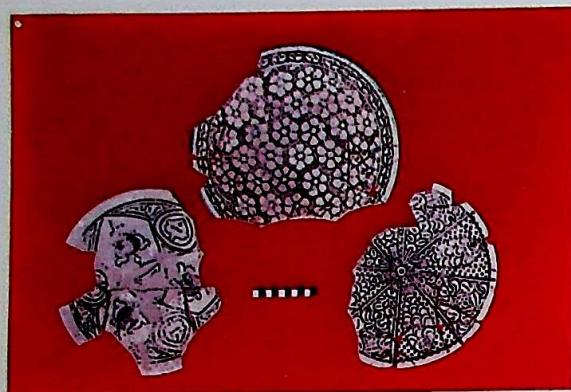
Pl. 28. Lal Kot 1992-95: Inscribed glazed sherds (Period II).



Pl. 29. Lal Kot 1992-95: Celadon ware (Period II).



Pl. 30. Lal Kot 1992-95: Porcelain sherds (Phase IV, Period II).



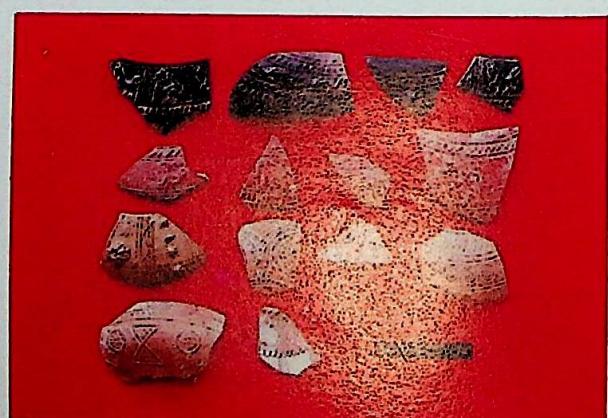
Pl. 31. Lal Kot 1992-95: Decorated glazed dishes (Period II).



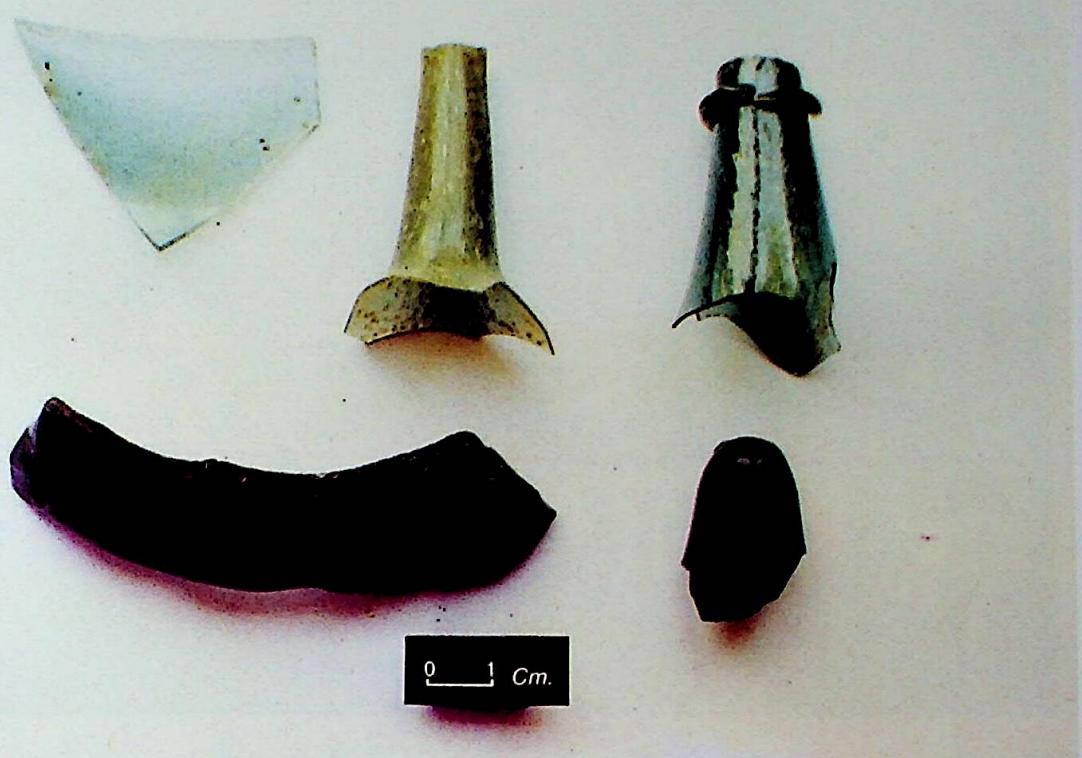
Pl. 32. Lal Kot 1992-95: Decorated glazed pottery (Period II).



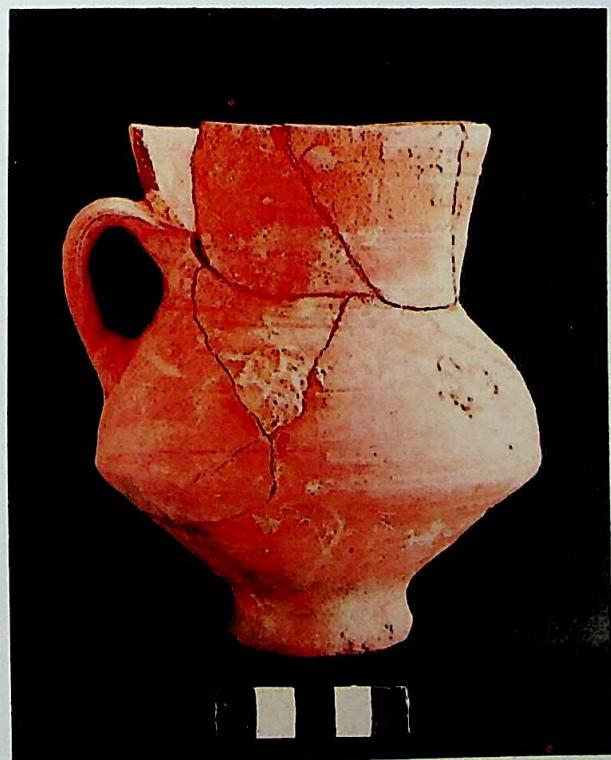
Pl. 33. Lal Kot 1992-95: Decorated glazed pottery (Period II).



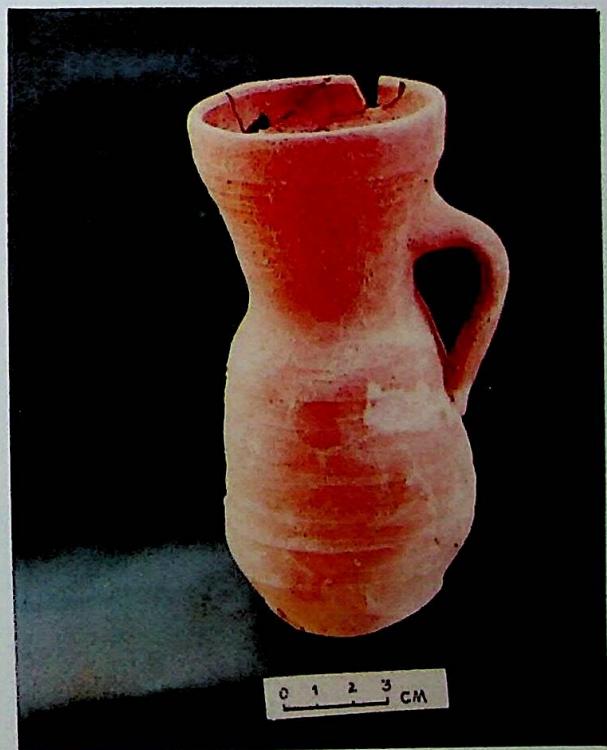
Pl. 34. Lal Kot 1992-95: Decorated black slipped grey ware and red ware (Period II).



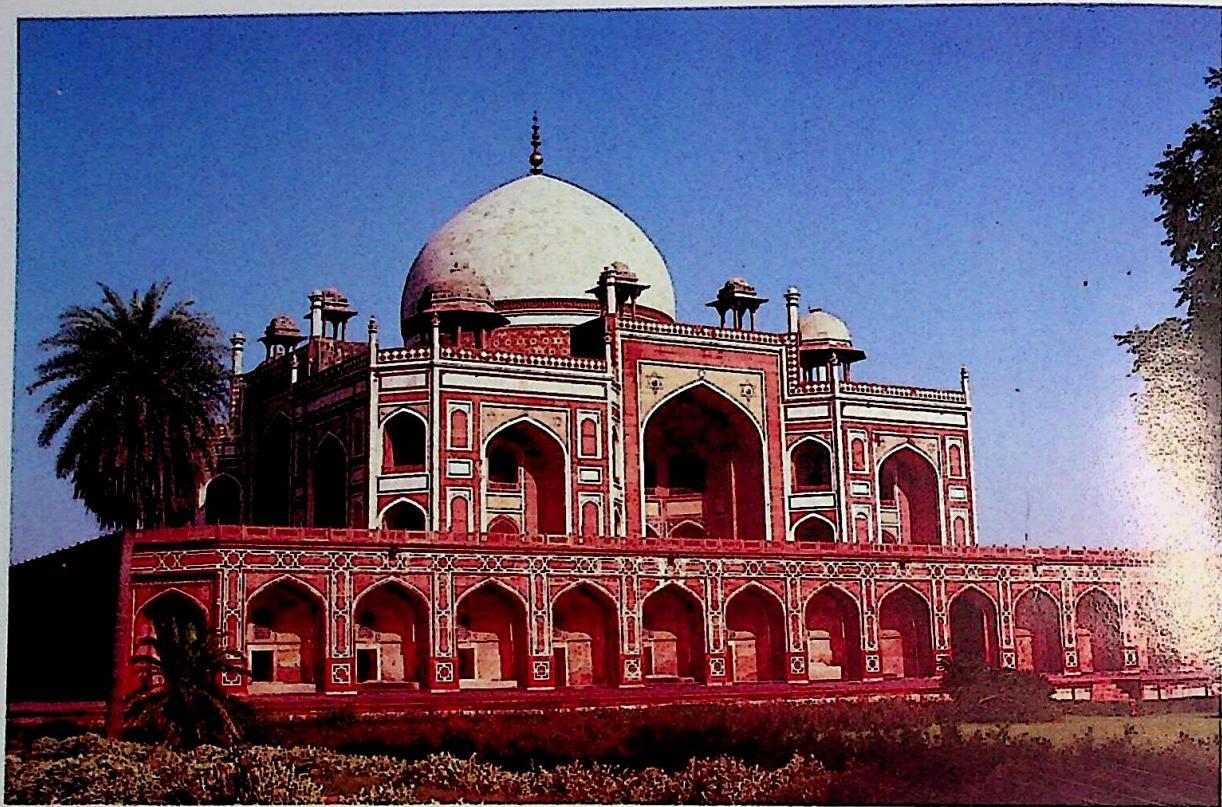
Pl. 35. Lal Kot 1992-95: Glass ware (Period II).



Pl. 36. Lal Kot 1992-95: Red ware cup (Period II).



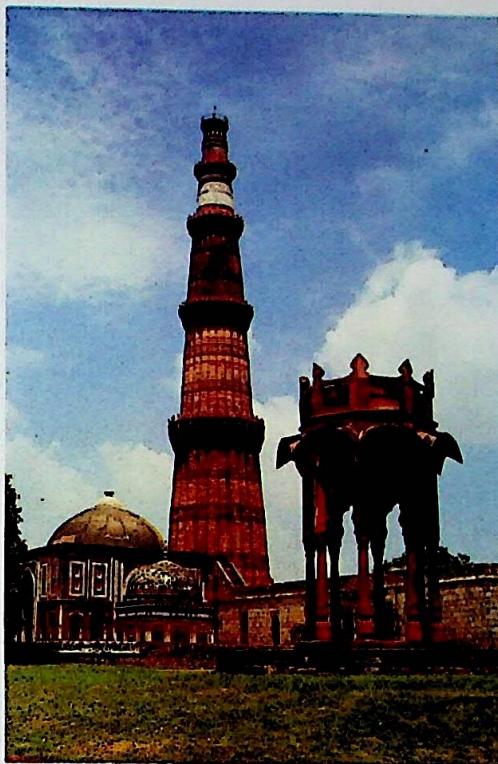
Pl. 37. Lal Kot 1992-95: Red ware cup (Period II).



Pl. 38. Humayun's Tomb.



Pl. 39. Safdarjung's Tomb.



Pl. 40. Qutb Minar.



Pl. 41. Jantar Mantar: Misra yantra.



Pl. 42. Jamali Kamali's Tomb: Decorated ceiling.

of the city of Delhi, a hundred years ago at the place known by the same name in the area of Raisina. It differentiates between Dhillikā and Indraprastha. The former has been called a city of the region of Hariyānā—*Deśosti Hariyānākhyah prithivyām swarggasam-nibhah. Dhillikākhyā puri tatra Tomarairasti nirmitā*. And the latter, i.e. Indraprastha, as a pratigāṇa (paragana or subdivision) of which Sāravala (Saravana or Sarban) was a village—*Indraprastha pratigāṇe grāme Sāravaletratu. . .*

Thus Dhilli or Dhillikā was nearly 10 kms away from the earlier day Indraprastha which was reduced to the status of a pratigāṇa and later a village. It is perhaps because of this reason, as also believed by Carr Stephen¹⁴ that Al-Biruni or Utbi do not mention the city of Delhi although they had knowledge of all other towns and cities of the nearby area.

The earliest inscription mentioning Dhillikā is the Bijolia inscription of A.D. 1170 which also mentions the capture of Delhi by Vigraharāja IV or Baisaldeo (c. 1153-64), the Chauhan king.

On the basis of philological grounds as well as in accordance with the local tradition the story of nail becoming loose or *Killi-dhilli Kathā* mentioned by Chand's *Prithvirāja Rāso* and Kharag Rai and described into details by Cunningham¹⁵ it seems possible that Delhi got its name from the nail (iron pillar) which remained loose (*dhilli*) after being refixed by Anang Pal, the Tomar king. Cunningham has cited¹⁶ different versions of the story but holds that the main points of it are the same as confirmed by the well known verse mentioning the popular belief in this tradition—"Killi to dhilli bhai, Tomar bhayā mat hin," i.e. "The pillar has become loose, the Tomar's wish will not be fulfilled" or "the nail has become loose and the Tomar has become disillusioned."

Physical Features

The tectonic chain of Aravalli ranges extends for about 700 km from Palanpur in Gujarat to Delhi, running across the region like a curved scimitar from south-west to north-east. The hills, which are loftiest around Mewar, terminate through detached hills of low heights and uneven rocky surface at Delhi, on the north and east of which flows the river Yamuna. The Aravalli range separates drainage of Ganga river system with that of Sindhu-Saraswati. At its northern end it forms the famous ridge of the city of Delhi constituting the system of quartzites, grits and schistose rocks with intrusions of basic rocks and series of granite bosses and laccolites with their related groups.

The neo-tectonics in the recent past in a period of about 10 to 12 thousand years have caused changes in the courses of rivers. Saraswati dried up, Yamuna got more water and shifted towards east and the same thing happened with Ganga also. On the basis

of the study of Landsat imagery, six successive stages of shifting of Yamuna have been reconstructed. "These palaeochannels are seen as gentle depressions of high moisture thickly cultivated and at places with raised levels where settlements are mostly located."¹⁷

Extreme dry hot summer and intensely cold winter with temperature reaching up to 47° C in former and going down to 7° C with mercury occasionally touching zero point in the latter are the characteristic features of the climate. Average rainfall is 660 mm of which about 70% is received during monsoons from July to September. The main flora constitutes of thorny tree and scrub species. Small to medium sized carnivorous animals, monkeys, antelopes, nilgai, vultures and birds, migratory birds and such other faunal species are found in the neighbourhood. Urban growth has affected much the flora and fauna during the present century.

Literature

Biographies of Mughal emperors and contemporary records of Muslim chroniclers provide much material about buildings, monuments and politico-social life in Delhi during the medieval period. Important among them are: Abu Omar Minhaj-ud-din Osman's *Tabqat-i-Nasiri*, Ibn Batuta's *Rehla*, Ziya-ud-din Barni's *Tarikh-i-Firozshahi*, Khafi Khan's *Muntakhab-ul-Lubab*, Muhammad Qasim's *Tarikh-i-Farishta*, Abul Fazl's *Ain-i-Akbari* and Nawab Shamsam-ud-daulah Shah Nawaz Khan's *Maasir-ul-umara* besides a number of other texts. Accounts of European travellers who came to India during Mughal period mention about life and buildings in Delhi. Important among them are accounts of Tavernier, Bernier, Manucci and Thevenot. Daniell's *Oriental Scenery* was published from London in 1812 which depicted some of the monuments of Delhi. Sayyid Ahmad Khan's *Asar-us-sanadid* (1847) gives a vivid description of monuments and sites of Delhi in the pre-Mutiny period.

With the establishment of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1861, Cunningham and Beglar surveyed the region of Delhi and recorded the details in Archaeological Survey of India's early reports. A number of other scholars also attempted in the second half of the last century to write on history and archaeology of the region. Narratives of the tours of Heber (1828) and Archer (1833) already contained such information but Mundy's *Journal of a Tour in Upper India* (1858), Mintura's *New York to Delhi* (1858), Cooper's *Handbook to Delhi* (1863), Matheson's *England to Delhi* (1870), Harcourt's *New Guide to Delhi* (1870), Carr Stephen's *Archaeology of Delhi* (1876), Cole's *Reports* (1881-84), Cavenagh's *Reminiscences of an Indian Official* (1884), Rodgers' *Revised List of Objects of Archaeological Interest in the Punjab* (1885-90) and Hoey's *Memoirs of Delhi and Fyzabad* (1888) were works directly concerned with history and archaeology of Delhi.

During the first quarter of this century a number of important monuments in Delhi were declared protected. Scholars were again interested in documenting them and important works appeared like *Delhi, Past and Present* (1902) by H.C. Fanshawe, *The Seven Cities of Delhi* (1906) by Gordon Risley Hearn, H.G. Keene's *Hand-book for Visitors to Delhi* (1906) rewritten by E.A. Duncan, *Catalogue, Delhi Museum of Archaeology* by J. Ph. Vogel (1909) and Gordon Sanderson (1913) and *Gardens of the Great Mughals* by C.M.V. Stuart besides works of Fergusson, Fletcher, Carotti, Elphinstone, Havell and S.L. Poole on history and architecture. A number of articles on art, architecture, history, archaeological remains and conservation of monuments appeared in different journals and reports of the Archaeological Survey of India. One of the most important works was the survey of Delhi monuments by the Archaeological Survey of India, the reports of which were published in four volumes from 1916 to 1922 compiled by Maulvi Zafar Hasan under *List of Muhammadan & Hindu Monuments*.

Among later important works on archaeological remains of Delhi, mention must be made of H. Sharp's *Delhi: Its Story and Buildings* (1921), T.G.P. Spear's *Delhi: A Historical Sketch* (1945), Tatsuro Yamamoto, Matsuo Ara and Tokifusa Tsukinowa's *Delhi: Architectural Remains of the Delhi Sultanate Period* (3 Volumes, 1968-70) and Y.D. Sharma's *Delhi and its Neighbourhood* (1964, reprinted 1974, 1982 and 1990).

Works mentioned above mostly contain information on history, art, architecture, monuments and other buildings of Delhi. In the post-Independence era, a number of archaeological excavations have taken place in Delhi and its neighbourhood. Important among them are excavations at Purana Qila, Mandoli, Lal Kot, Anangpur, Salimgarh and Bhorgarh besides exploratory surveys in different parts of Delhi. Interesting data on material culture from late Harappan times till late medieval period have come up after these investigations. An attempt is made in the following pages to project a clear picture of the archaeological evidence available so far which may be helpful in understanding the history and archaeology of Delhi region including socio-economic and cultural aspects of life in a chronological framework concerning seven, eight or nine cities of Delhi (Pl. 1).

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14. Stephen, Carr, *op.cit.*, pp. 10-11.
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16. *Ibid.*
17. Sharma, A.K., *Prehistoric Delhi and its Neighbourhood*, New Delhi 1993, p. 12.

Prehistoric Investigations

Recent archaeological investigations attest to early inhabitation of Delhi in the lower palaeolithic age and human activities are noticed in the following middle palaeolithic, upper palaeolithic, chalcolithic and early iron ages with the beginning of the historical period. It is quite clear that the ridges of the sloping Aravallis which end at river Yamuna with tributaries and drains and undulating land surface had contained such a flora and fauna that the area remained ideal for hunters and food gatherers of prehistoric age followed by regular settlements scattered in different parts of the area in protohistoric times. The discovery of over three dozen prehistoric sites throughout Delhi and to its south in adjoining parts of Haryana and mostly confined to the bordering hilly area containing villages and places like Kalkaji, J.N.U. Campus, Lado Sarai, Chattarpur, Anangpur, Surajkund and many sites in between and around Surajkund-Gurgaon stretch and different ridges around water reservoir of Surajkund, Anangpur dam, Badkhal Lake-Sohna road prove that the southern hilly area of Delhi bordering Haryana was environmentally better suited to prehistoric man.

As stated earlier, Delhi falls under the northern extremity of the Aravalli ranges, the tectonic chain of which extends for about 700 km from Palanpur in Gujarat to Delhi. This range separates drainage of Ganga river system with that of Sindhu-Saraswati. At its northern end it forms the famous ridge of Delhi constituting the system of quartzites, grits and schistose rocks with intrusions of

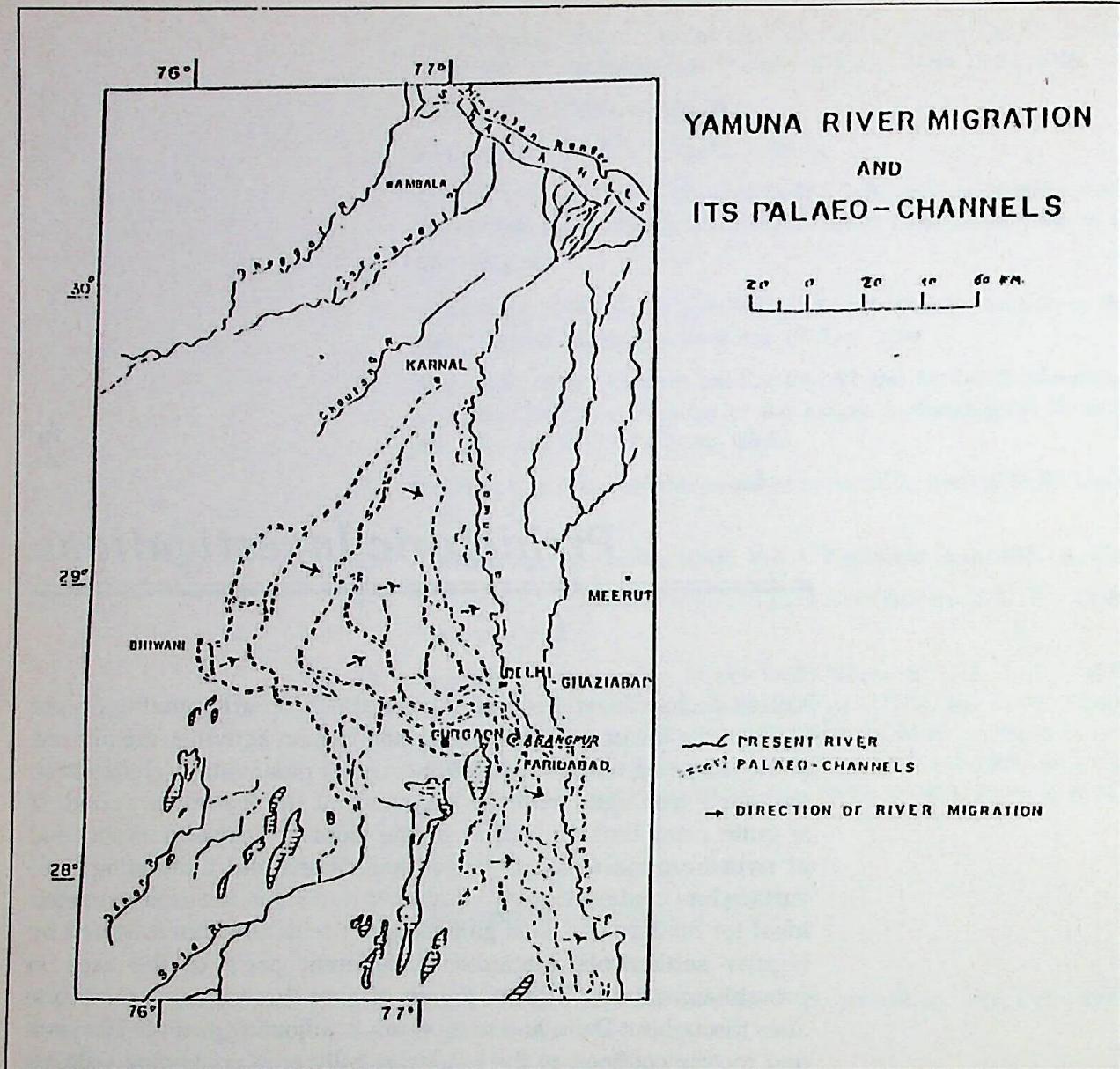


Fig.1. Yamuna river migration

basic rocks and series of granite bosses and laccolites with their related groups.

On the basis of the study of Landsat imagery six successive stages of shifting of Yamuna have been reconstructed (Fig. 1). "These palaeochannels are seen as gentle depressions of high moisture thickly cultivated and at places with raised levels where settlements are mostly located."¹

It has been observed that "The rocks of Delhi belong to the earliest and latest chapters of the geological history of the earth, the pre-Cambrian and the Quaternary. The intervening records are missing, as the region has been lying exposed to subaerial erosion

since it rose from beneath the sea in late pre-Cambrian times (1500 million years ago). Its rebirth took place towards the end of pre-Cambrian period, about 800 million years ago. During the Permo-Carboniferous period, 250 million years ago, when India, Malagasy, South Africa, South America, Australia and Antarctica were united forming Gondwana land, the Aravalli range was the backbone of the north-eastern angle of the great continent. It was rejuvenated in Pleistocene times more than a million years ago. The Tughlaqabad quartzite tableland attains a height of about 243 m above mean sea level and 30 m above the surface of the plain. The hills, ridges and plateaus are unconformably overlain and surrounded by the alluvium and wind blown sands of the Quaternary period.² In the middle Pleistocene times Delhi and its neighbourhood was under "the warmth of II Inter-Glacial period after shuddering in the freezing colds of Second Glaciation. With the rise in temperature of the atmosphere and melting of ice, it was an ideal time for *Homo erectus* to increase his hunting powers by shaping tools out of quartzite boulders lying in the Aravallis of which the famous ridges of Delhi and its neighbourhood are an integral part. Delhi and neighbourhood were being ruled by nature and not by man. Man was one of the creatures like any other, roaming in the area. Man had started making handaxes with very sharp edges. Almost at the same time in China the Peking man, *Sinanthropus*, in Java the Java man, *Pithecanthropus* etc. were forging ahead and advancing their tool-making techniques. Around Delhi in Aravallis apart from ideal raw material for tool-making, there was plenty of vegetation and water. Water brought by the three great sacred rivers of India—Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati, which during Pleistocene times flowed past Delhi and joined in the neighbourhood to form the Sangam—the Great *Sangam* which has now shifted to Allahabad.³

For the first time lower palaeolithic tools, 4 specimens of scraper, handaxe, cleaver and disc were discovered on 8th April 1956 by Surajit Sinha in front of the Chauburji mosque at northern ridge, who published a brief note in *Man in India* in 1958 (pp. 151-53). B.M. Pande of the Archaeological Survey of India discovered a late Acheulian handaxe in the J.N.U. Campus in 1983 which was made of quartzite flake, measuring 93 mm in length, 47 mm in width with maximum thickness of 23 mm and symmetrical in outline with "more or less flat surface marked by shallow flake scars suggesting the use of a soft hammer wood or bone."⁴

In 1987, Dilip K. Chakrabarti and Nayanjot Lahiri published a brief report on their prehistoric investigations in Delhi and Haryana which was the outcome of their fieldwork conducted in south Delhi and adjoining parts of Haryana in December-January 1985-86 as a result of which 43 prehistoric sites were located by

their team.⁵ Discussing the issue of stratigraphy they have observed, "Three stratigraphic units can clearly be isolated. The first is the conglomerate/breccia bed one can clearly study at Meola Pahari II, Noadah Koh II and Delhi University South Campus. At Noadah Koh II we noticed the occurrence of both 'lower' and 'middle' palaeolithic tools in this bed. Considering the 'late' character of our Acheulian artefacts it is not surprising that 'lower' and 'middle' palaeolithic artefacts should occur together in this context. However a more careful search may be necessary to settle this point. The second stratigraphic unit is represented by the bed of the upper palaeolithic finds at Bhaunkri II. This bed shows, right below the surface, a slightly blackish soil deposit. The third stratigraphic unit is clearly marked by the microliths embedded in the top soil of the region. This is apparent at Lakkarpur and Manesar I where such occurrences could be studied *in situ*.

"According to our observation lower palaeolithic implements get exposed on the Aravalli surface wherever the relevant conglomerate/breccia bed stands exposed. Except an outcrop-centred occurrence in JNU hills we do not seem to have found anything which can be interpreted as a lower palaeolithic factory site. Interestingly enough all the sites or occurrences listed by us are from the Aravalli surface which has become considerably eroded in places and forms extensive low uplands in those areas. In other areas the hilltop is like a tableland on the surface of which the tools have been found eroded from the original implementiferous deposits.

"Technologically the lower palaeolithic industry appears to be a late Acheulian industry. This is indicated by the occurrence of thin and carefully flaked handaxes, well-finished cleavers, etc. The discovery of this Stone Age sequence overlooking the Haryana plain is interesting in the sense that it raises the question of the link, if any, of the upper limit of this succession (i.e., a microlithic horizon) with the beginning of the cultural succession in the adjacent plain."⁶

The listing of above-mentioned 43 sites is based on mostly stray finds of palaeoliths at 43 different places, but the concentration of the finds is mainly around Anangpur area (Pl. 2) where later a large factory site was discovered. Some of the places among the 43 sites were visited by the author in 1991 but Stone Age tools were not found there, although late Acheulian tools were collected from implementiferous deposits and exposed sections due to blasting and quarrying operations which were being carried out by different contractors towards south and south-west of Anangpur village in between the fourth and fifth palaeochannels⁷ and also a few from the Anangpur fort in 1992.

In 1986, S.S. Saar of the Archaeological Survey of India picked

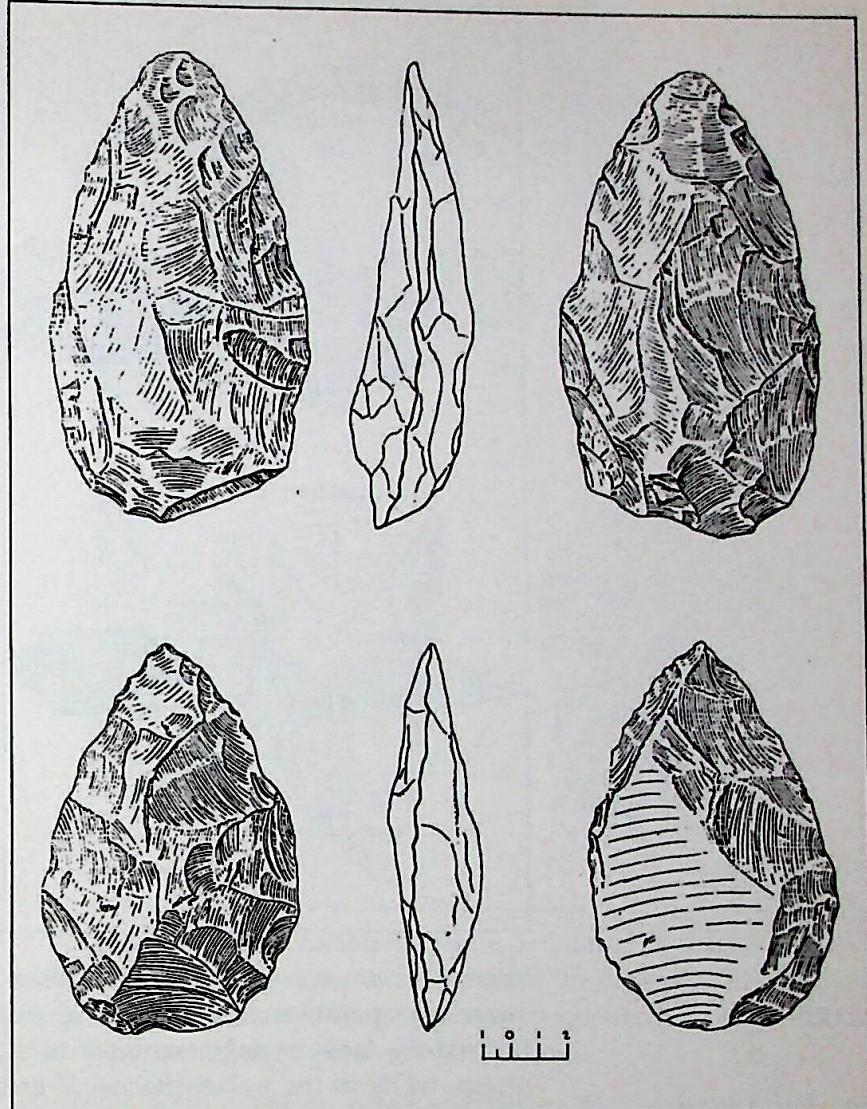


Fig.2. Anangpur: Handaxes

up some tools from the heap of Badarpur sand unloaded by a truck in Malaviya Nagar in New Delhi. The quarry was searched about 1 km south of Anangpur village where a large number of tools were found in the ditches, formed by quarries and also resting over the weathered bedrock surfaces, overlain by nearly 1 m deposit of soil.⁸ In 1991 and 1992 A.K. Sharma of the Prehistory Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India in association of his team and with the help of the Excavation Branch II of the Archaeological Survey of India excavated for two seasons in the areas between palaeochannels V and IV to know further details of the prehistoric site.

Sharma has surmised that Anangpur site is one of the biggest prehistoric sites of the country. It is a factory site as tools in various stages of preparation along with their cores and waste flakes are

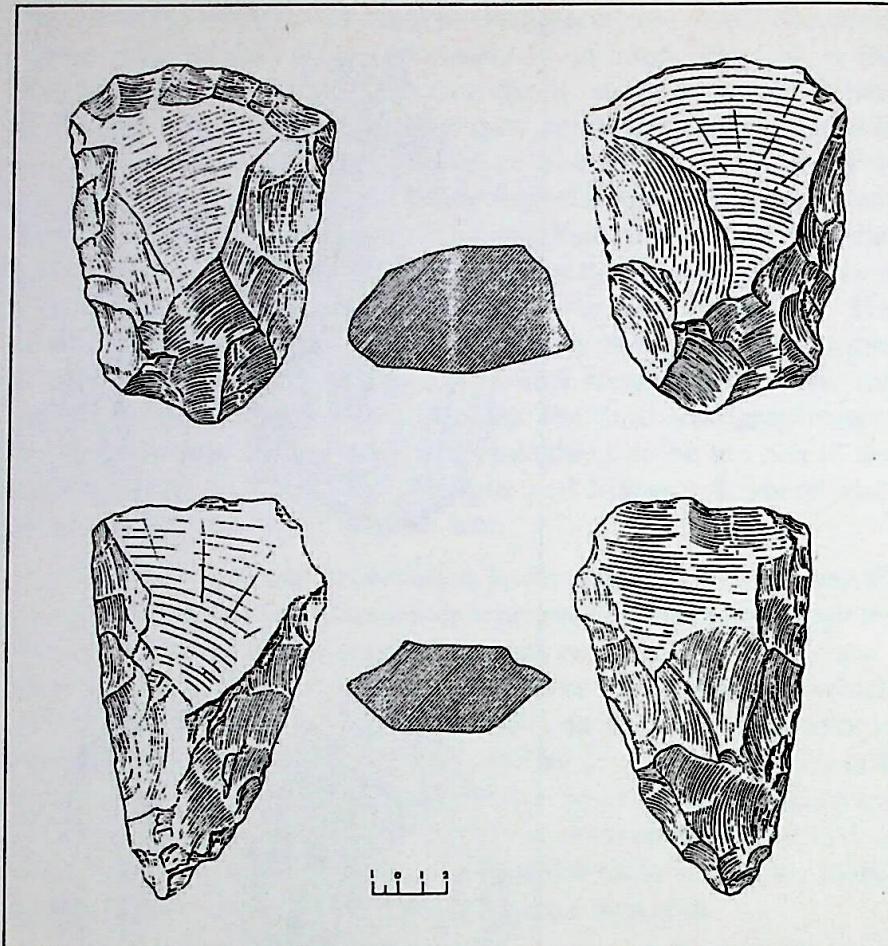


Fig.3. Anangpur: Cleavers

littered all around and embedded deep in sections exposed after quarrying operations. He has further added that in palaeochannel IV area the tools belong essentially to the early Acheulian cultural phase, while in the palaeochannel V area the tools predominantly belong to the late Acheulian assemblage. This also confirms that with the shift in the course of Yamuna early man shifted to the new area of shift.⁹

Interestingly, the handaxes (Pl. 3) and cleavers (Pl. 4) of late Acheulian phase which are normally on flakes are on cores in Anangpur and therefore they are bifacial in nature and there is almost complete absence of cortex on the surfaces. Late Acheulian assemblage comprises both finished and simple artefacts represented by handaxes, cleavers, picks, choppers, discoids, knives, points and scrapers, majority of them on fine grained quartzite while a few on sandstone or rarely on quartz and granite. The early Acheulian assemblage at palaeochannel IV comprises handaxes (43.4%), cleavers (32.4%), points (12.5%), scrapers (9.4%) and discoids (2.7%).

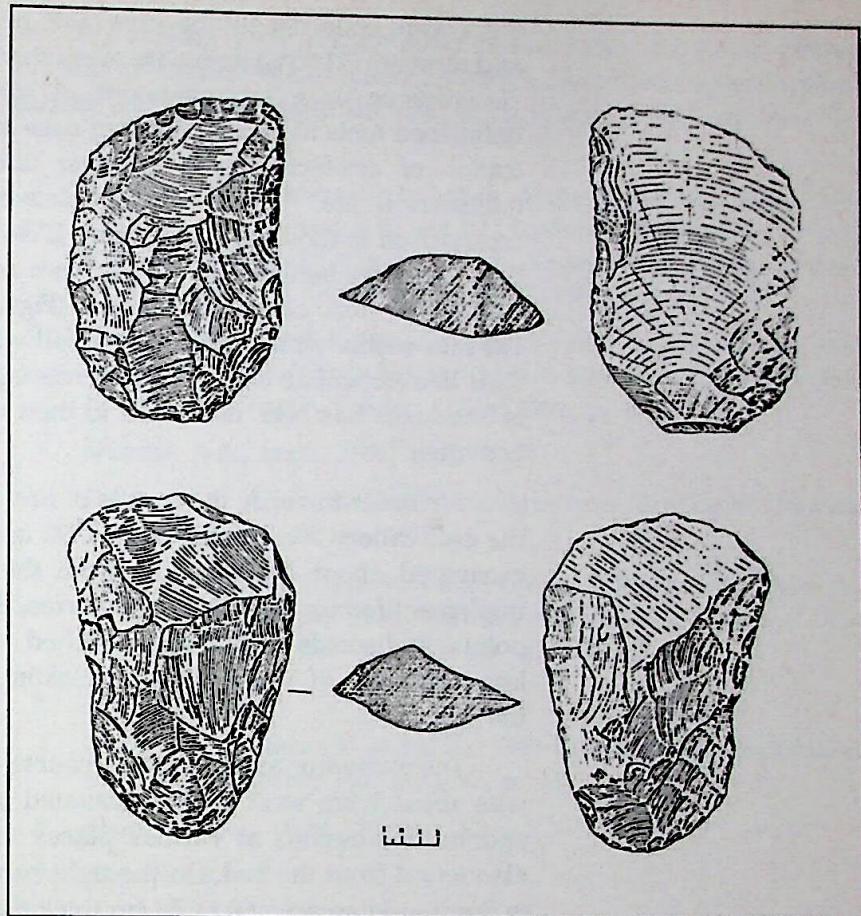


Fig.4. Anangpur: Cleavers

Some amount of weathering and patination has been noticed on the tools but majority of them have been found in unrolled condition. This indicates that they have remained *in situ* condition after their manufacture and use in the area.

Tools were made on cores and flakes. Flakes were taken out by the 'block-on-block' technique from large boulders. Majority of the tools were manufactured in Acheulian technique and they have small flat scars and are completely worked all around. Perhaps 'cylinder-hammer' or 'wood-on-stone' technique seems to have been used in making.¹⁰ "Some of the flake and discoids having faceted platform suggest special preparation of the core before giving the final stroke or touch. They suggest the knowledge of levallois technique by Delhi man. Levola technique is a sign of advanced Acheulian technique. From bifacial points they slowly become moustierian points where it is detached from flake. Most of the flake scars are almost parallel and not radiating."¹¹

A 3 x 3 m trench was excavated in 1991 up to the level of top of bedrock in order to ascertain the position of the implementiferous horizon. At a depth of 0.75 m from the surface, 0.25 to 0.40 m thick implementiferous layer was encountered. From the area around, 228

tools were collected by the excavator of which handaxes (34.65%) and cleavers (21.93%) dominate over other varieties of finished tools. "Occurrence of a large amount of simple artefacts and some unfinished tools alongside finished ones and the differential concentration of artefacts clearly suggest that it was a factory-cum-habitational site."¹² Handaxes and cleavers on core form 82.53% in comparison to those on flakes being 17.46%. Length of the handaxes (Fig. 2) ranges between 90 and 210 mm and the majority is between 90 and 170 mm. Length of cleavers (Figs. 3, 4) is between 100 and 180 mm within which the majority fall which again points towards their late Acheulian origin. High percentage of edge damage noticed in handaxes has been attributed to their use for certain heavy duty activities.¹³

In order to verify the results of first season's excavation work, the excavations were resumed in 1992 and a 10 x 10 m square was excavated about 300 m away from the earlier trench. From the implementiferous deposit, 13 handaxes, 32 scrapers, 18 cleavers, 9 points, 3 discoids and 4 semi-finished tools were found amongst large quantity of waste flakes indicating that they were made at the site.

The excavator also traced the course of palaeochannel IV which was about 1 km west of the excavated area and from the channel and its depressions at various places in length rolled tools were also found from the bed. On the right bank of the IV palaeochannel in Suraj-ki-khan area 60 to 70 cm thick deposit of sand and silt was noticed above the implementiferous deposit over the bedrock which suggests that some time after the area was occupied by the early Acheulian tool using people, it was flooded. Over the layer of sand and silt, about 70 cm thick layer of calcareous deposit consisting of granules rich in calcium-carbonate lies. According to the excavator, "This layer is of great importance for our study. The calcareous deposits are normally formed in stagnant water rich in molluscs, snails, etc. The 0.70 m thick deposit shows that due to tectonic movements in the area, the mouth of the Yamuna during fourth channel period got blocked resulting in flooding of a vast area upstream. The flooding it appears remained for nearly half a millennium or so resulting in formation of a thick layer of calcareous deposit. Such deposits are ideal for formations of fossils. Detailed investigations of a larger area may prove rewarding."¹⁴ Further beyond, the author along with I.D. Dwivedi collected large size handaxes from Gur-ki-mandi and other quarries in 1992. The excavator has also identified the escarpments along the course of IV palaeochannel which might have provided ideal spots for the palaeolithic man to drive the herds of less harmful animals towards the escarpments and force a fall to kill or injure them grievously

and has located some resting spots of the early Acheulian people in form of circular spots where outcrops have been given a plain surface and where people sat around the fire or rested comfortably.

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Protohistoric and Early Historic Vestiges

Remains of chalcolithic and iron age settlements have been noticed in different parts of Delhi in spite of limited extent of excavations, sporadic explorations and considerable amount of erosion. The artefacts and ecofacts recovered from small scale excavations and surface prospection provide an excellent possibility for studying the settlement geography. From the southern hilly area of Delhi bordering Haryana which was environmentally better suited to prehistoric man, a cultural shift towards its north, in the western, northern and north-eastern parts of Delhi and adjoining plains of Yamuna is remarkable. This area was suited for farming and land and river trade during protohistoric and early historic times. Archaeological evidence of Late Harappan and Painted Grey Ware period settlements from the first half of the second millennium B.C. to the middle of the first millennium B.C. before the so-called second urbanisation and literary evidence from epics and later Vedic texts about the cutting and burning of forest of Khāṇḍavaprastha and establishment of Indraprastha by the Pāṇḍavas suggest a social flux which witnessed growth, dwindle, fission, demographic change, ecological shift, internecine conflict, economic stress and political pressure occasionally reflected in the material record.

Purana Qila, the traditionally known site of Indraprastha, revealed the occurrence of Painted Grey Ware in the lower levels during trial digging in 1954-55.¹ Although during the excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India from 1969 to 1973,² a continuously rich occupation from Maurya to Sunga, Kushan, Gupta, post-Gupta, Rajput, Delhi Sultanate up to the Mughal period was revealed at the site but no separate horizon of Painted Grey Ware culture could be traced while the PGW sherds were found in accumulations of later date.³ Excavation details are discussed sepa-

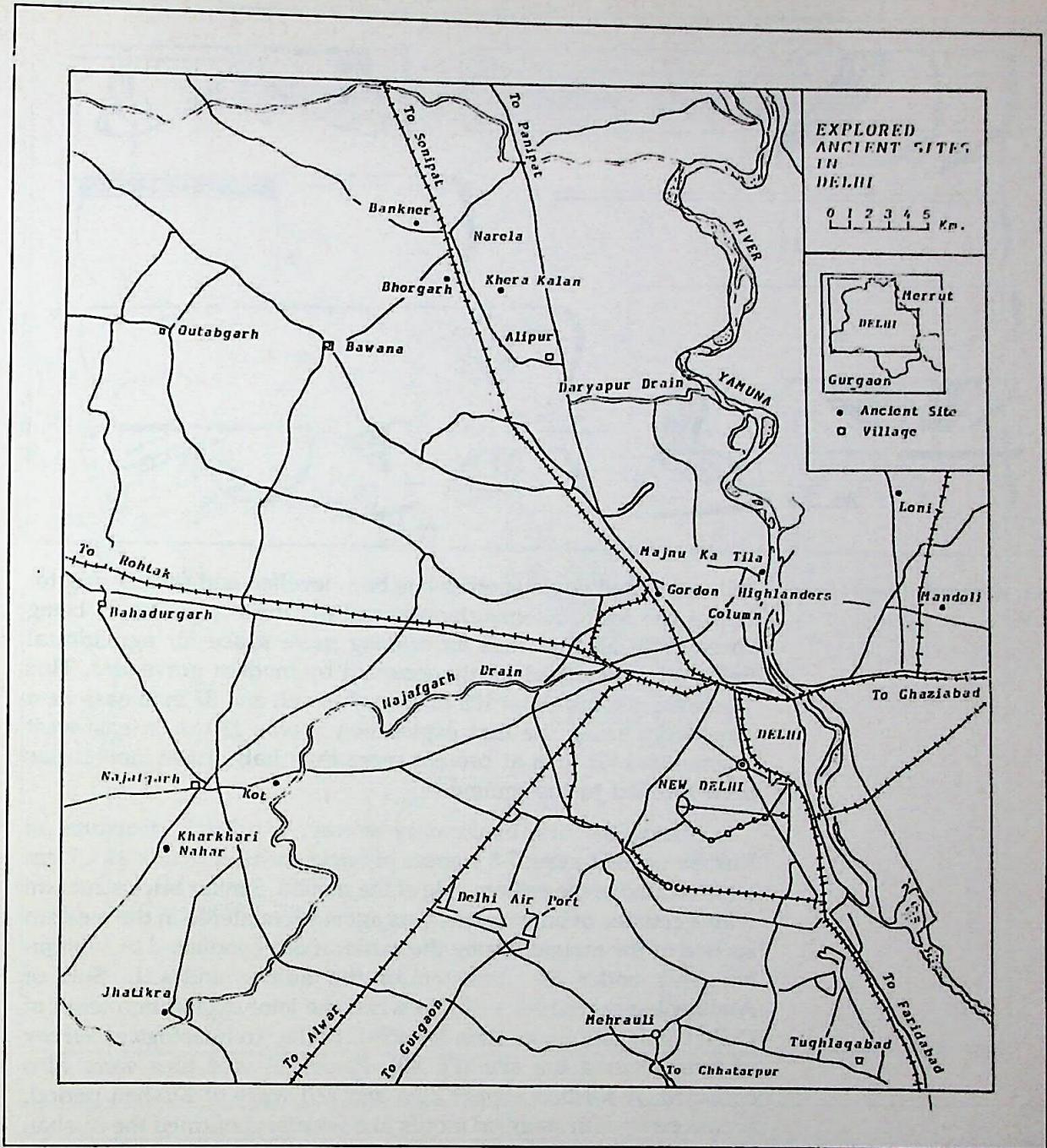


Fig.5. Explored ancient sites in Delhi

rately in the next chapter. During the last few decades several proto-historic sites have been located in Delhi and small scale excavations have also been carried out at some of them (Fig.5).

Bhogarh

The ancient mounds at Bhogarh (lat. $28^{\circ} 49' 45''$ N, long. $77^{\circ} 5' 15''$ E) in north Delhi near Narela were discovered about twenty-five years back and explored thoroughly by the teams of Archaeological Survey of India in 1973-75⁴ and 1991-92.⁵ Among the three mounds, one is

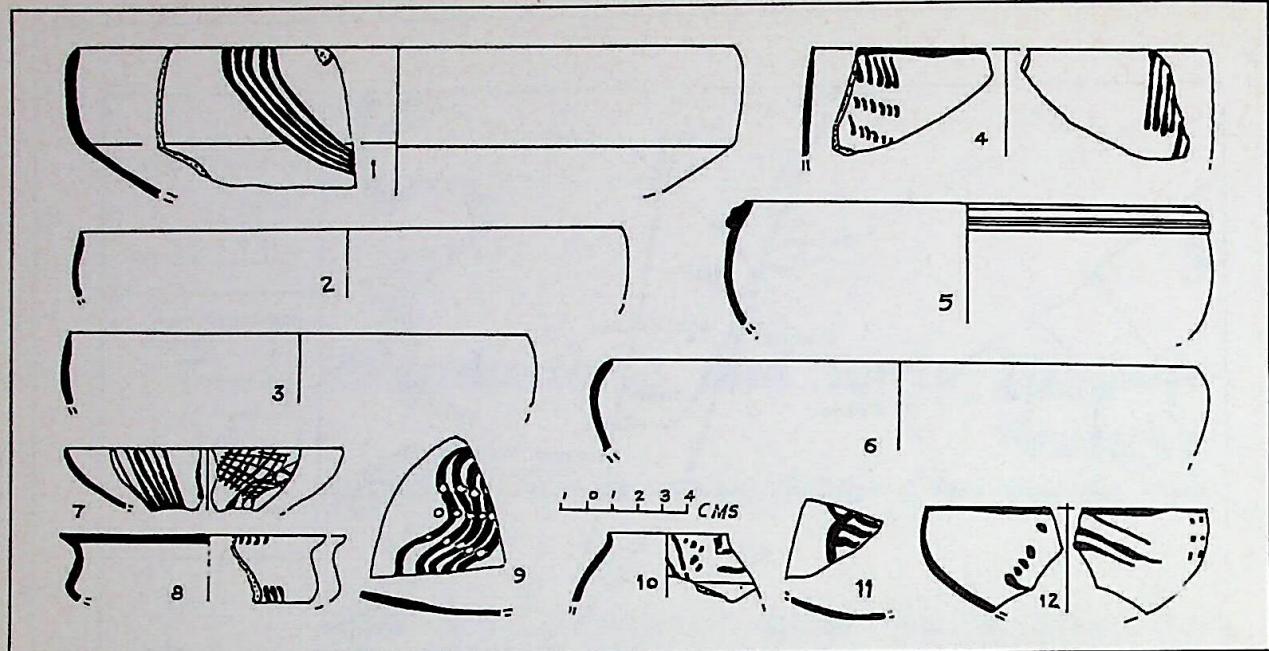


Fig.6. Bhogarh: Painted Grey Ware

fully inhabited while another has been levelled and further dug for taking soil for brick manufacture and the third is gradually being sliced from all the sides for making more space for agricultural fields all around and partly occupied by modern graveyard. This mound measures about 100 m in north-south and 57 m in east-west direction. During the first exploration it was 130 m in east-west orientation and thus at present more than half of the mound has been levelled to the ground.

During the first exploratory survey, two brick structures of Kushan period having 7-8 courses of bricks measuring $18 \times 24 \times 7$ cm were located in the eastern side of the mound. Similar brick structure with 8 courses of burnt bricks was again encountered in the western section of the mound during the explorations conducted in September 1991 under the direction of the author and C.L. Suri of Archaeological Survey of India when the joint exploration team of Delhi Circle and Excavation Branch-II of the Archaeological Survey of India visited the site (Pl. 43). Pieces of roof tiles were also collected. A Kushan copper coin and red ware of Kushan period, occasionally with stamped motifs like *Śrīvatsa* confirmed the Kushan occupation of the site in the beginning of the Christian era. During the same exploratory survey, Painted Grey Ware, black slipped ware, black-and-red ware, Northern Black Polished Ware sherds in fairly large quantity suggested the early occupation of the site at least in the second half of the second millennium B.C. or in the beginning of the first millennium B.C. Similarly, the broken sandstone sculptural fragment and glazed ware sherds collected from the site suggested the occupation of the site in the early and late medieval periods.

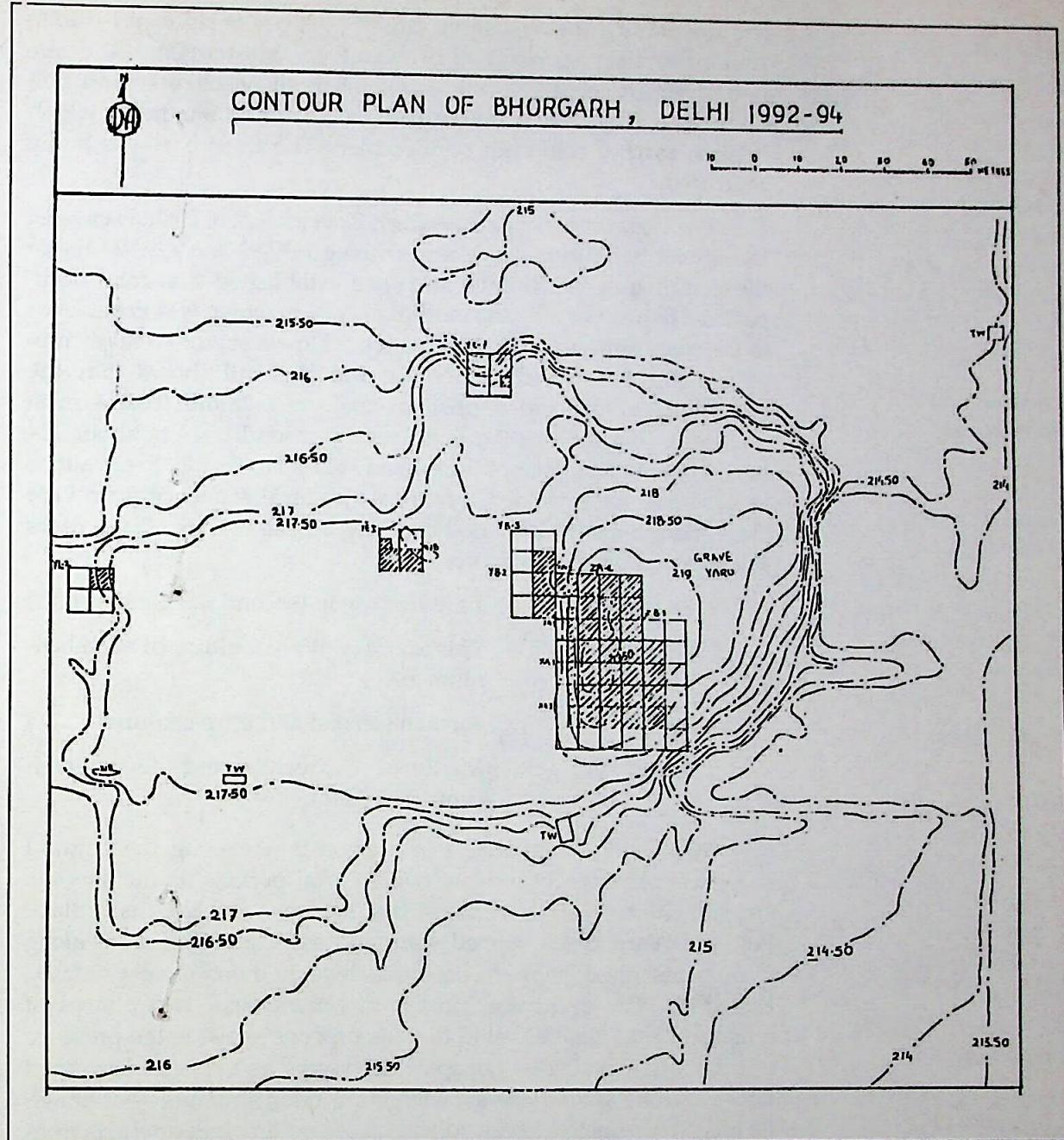


Fig.7. Contour plan of Bhorgarh,
Delhi 1992-94

Similar results were already obtained during the first exploratory survey when Painted Grey Ware (Fig.6) comprising bowls with incurved sides having flat or rounded base, dishes, basins and miniature vase were found. Their designs included slashes, dots, wavy lines, intersecting lines and thick bands on both the inner and outer surfaces of bowls and dishes. A dull red ware was also found associated in the ceramic assemblage of the early period. Amongst antiquities collected from the site, terracotta animal figurines, beads, balls and hop-scotches besides a fragmentary discular ear ornament

are important. Amongst three circular copper coins found during first exploratory survey, two of them were uninscribed cast coins, one of which contained tree in railing motif on obverse and bull on reverse, while tree was identified on obverse of another of which reverse symbol could not be identified. The third one was badly mutilated.

The Department of Archaeology, Government of Delhi excavated the site for two successive seasons during 1992-93 and 1993-94 under the direction of B.S.R. Babu who has established that total occupational deposit of the mound is about 1.80 m which was considered to be more during earlier explorations. However, a careful examination of the exposed sections at the site still shows that the complete habitational deposit at the site is more than 4 m in thickness. The MSL of the surrounding ground level is about 214 m and the highest point of the mound is 219.5 m (Fig.7). Excavations at Bhorgarh have yielded a four-fold cultural sequence from Late Harappan to medieval period covering a span of about 2,500 years as proposed by the excavator⁶—

- Period I : Late Harappan (second millennium B.C.)
- Period II : Painted Grey Ware Culture (first millennium B.C.)
- Period III : Kushan (second and third centuries A.D.)
- Period IV : Medieval (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries A.D.).

There may be difference of opinion in accepting the cultural sequence, particularly the last two cultural periods as the site has yielded during earlier explorations evidence of Northern Black Polished Ware, black slipped ware and associated red ware along with uninscribed copper cast coins which must have predated Period III. The excavator himself has mentioned⁷ two phases of structural activities of Period III—the first one showing the presence of mud bricks and two occupational layers as evidenced by mud floors and the second one showing burnt brick structures—although he has not distinctly described associated pottery and artefacts from both the phases. The thickness of deposit of post-PGW period and the availability of material belonging to the pre-Kushan period suggest that the site was definitely inhabited during Maurya-Sunga period. The first phase of the so-called Period III may represent the same phase or period. Similarly, the site has yielded evidence of sculptural fragments and such red ware and glazed potsherds which suggest that the site was occupied during early medieval times.

The importance of the site is due to the discovery of two parallel extended burials of Late Harappan period in the lowest

levels at the site which has been classified in Period I by the excavator.⁸ The burials in almost north-south orientation were dug out in the alluvium of river Yamuna and later filled by the same soil. In the first burial three pots—a small bowl and two small globular vases—were placed behind the head as burial goods. Calculated length of the skeleton was 1.76 m whose hands were folded from elbow and placed on shoulder. No pot was found in the second burial in which the left hand of the skeleton was kept straight and parallel to the vertebral column. Habitational remains of the Late Harappan period were not found and it has been suggested by the excavator⁹ that it may be traced in the vicinity.

Average thickness of the succeeding period represented by Painted Grey Ware was found to be 45 cm. Post-holes were noticed suggesting wattle-and-daub structures, circular on plan. A hearth made of lump of clay was also exposed. Painted Grey Ware shapes include straight-sided bowls with flat base, deep bowls with sagger base and miniature *handi* decorated with painted designs with black pigment forming circles, concentric circles, semicircles, flowers with three or nine petals, dotted designs, dots inside two parallel lines, strokes, wavy lines, intersecting loops, balloon design, hook design etc. which are common designs of the pottery of the class. Carnelian and terracotta beads of *ghaṭa*-shape, terracotta animal figurines, hopscotches and fragments of iron implements were also found from the levels of Period II.

In the levels of Period III, the first phase contained mud brick structures. From the levels of second phase two structures of burnt bricks belonging to two house complexes were noticed. Mud floors and an oven were also exposed. Among important antiquities mention may be made of two terracotta sealings with the legend *Supakasa* in *Brāhma* characters, terracotta beads and iron implements. Kushan incurved bowls, dishes, basins, sprinklers, *handis*, lids (with knobs and inkpot type), lamps and vases in red ware formed the ceramic assemblage. Painted and stamped pottery was also found.

From the eastern side of the mound, remains of Period IV were found in much disturbed state. Part of a *lakhauri* brick wall with four courses was noticed. Sherds of porcelain and celadon ware along with *hukka-chilam* of red ware were found from the levels of Period IV suggesting their association with Mughal period.

Mandoli

Another ancient mound located south-west of village Mandoli and south of Saboli has provided evidence of Late Harappan and Painted Grey Ware cultures. The site is located with (lat. 28° 42' 10" N and long. 77° 18' 30" E) at a distance of about 18 km from Delhi Railway Station towards east and towards south of Loni, another ancient mound.

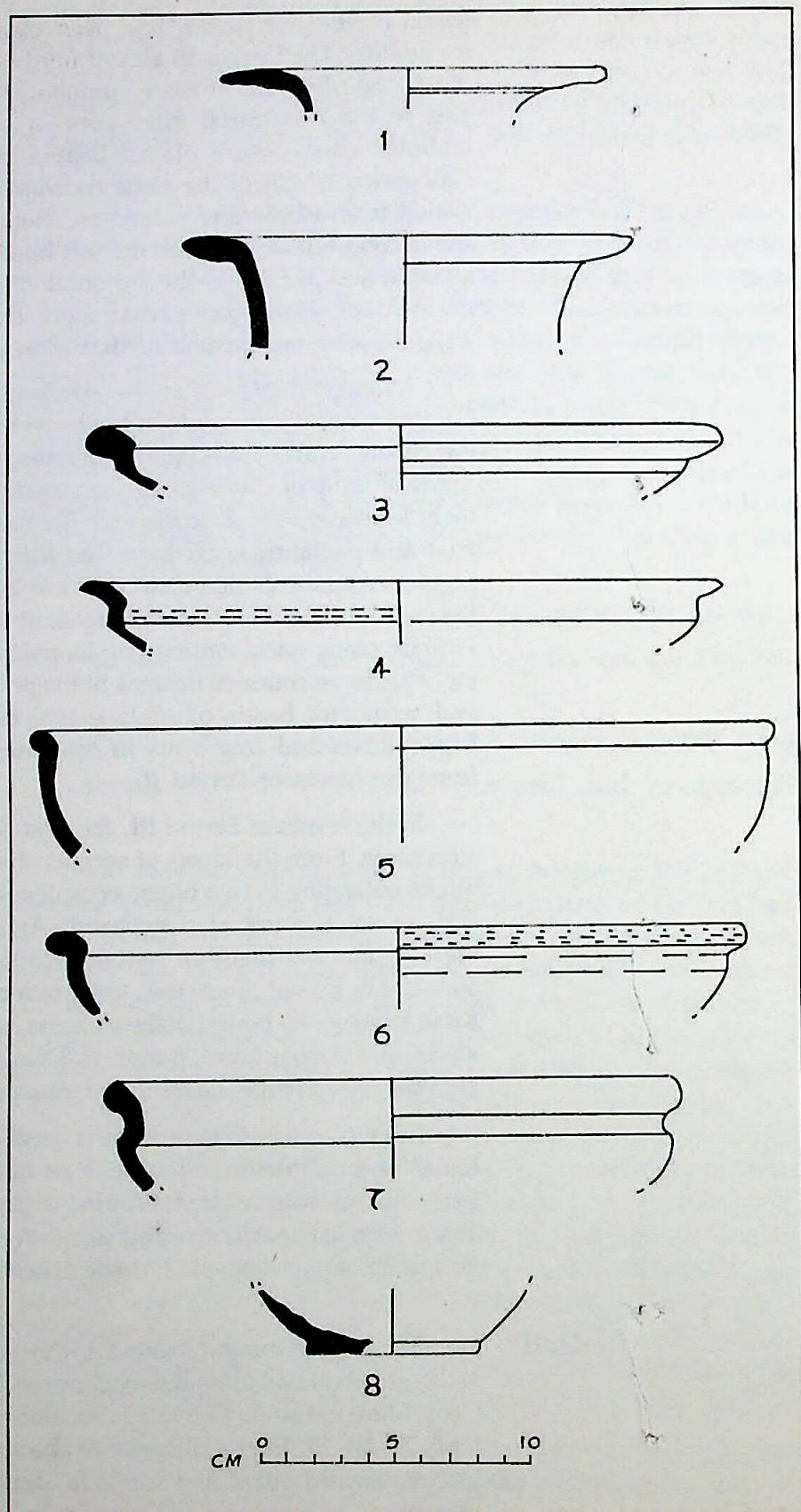


Fig.8. Mandoli: Pottery of Period I

Excavations at Mandoli were carried out for two consecutive seasons from 1987-88 to 1988-89 by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Delhi under B.S.R. Babu with the objective to investigate the nature and extent of Late Harappan element and to find out the horizon of the Painted Grey Ware in Delhi which was not very clear about ten years back and of course with the objective of establishing the cultural sequence of the site. According to the excavator,¹⁰ the cultural sequence of the site represents following cultural periods—

Period I	:	Late Harappan
Period II	:	Painted Grey Ware
Period III	:	Distinguished by a black slipped ware
Period IV	:	Sunga-Kushana, and
Period V	:	Gupta times.

The earliest levels at Mandoli have yielded red ware sherds (Fig. 8) of jars with splayed out or beaded rim, vase with disc base etc. showing wear due to waterlogging, supported by the fact that immediately overlying these levels is a thick deposit of 30 to 35 cm water-borne silt and sand. Pottery made out of well-levigated clay and of fine and sturdy fabric is occasionally coated with dull red slip and has been identified by the excavator as Late Harappan pottery. A biconical bead and a circular terracotta cake have also been found from the earliest levels. Yellow coloured rammed earth floor with post-holes in circular and arc fashions and a hearth suggest that the earliest settlers lived in houses made of wattle-and-daub.

In our opinion, perhaps it is too early to call the earliest levels at Bhorganj and Mandoli as Late Harappan for want of more material. More research and data may solve this problem in future. At present we may assign these levels to the pre-PGW period only. The excavator¹¹ has also pointed out that during the migratory process of the Late Harappans, most of the Harappan cultural traits disappeared and the earliest levels of Mandoli represent the same which can be dated between 1500 and 1200 B.C.

After a little gap, the site was occupied by the people using fine Painted Grey Ware. Bowls and dishes with straight or convex sides and having designs like dots, dashes, loops, concentric circles, wavy lines, strokes etc. have been found painted usually with black pigment (Fig. 9). Fine thin grey ware and red ware are associated pottery. Rammed mud floor with post-holes gives an idea of settlement pattern. Associated antiquities comprise terracotta animal figurines, *ghaṭa*-shaped beads, terracotta discs decorated with designs at edges, pyramid-shaped hollow ivory piece, ivory button, beads of agate and etched carnelian, copper, antimony rod and nail

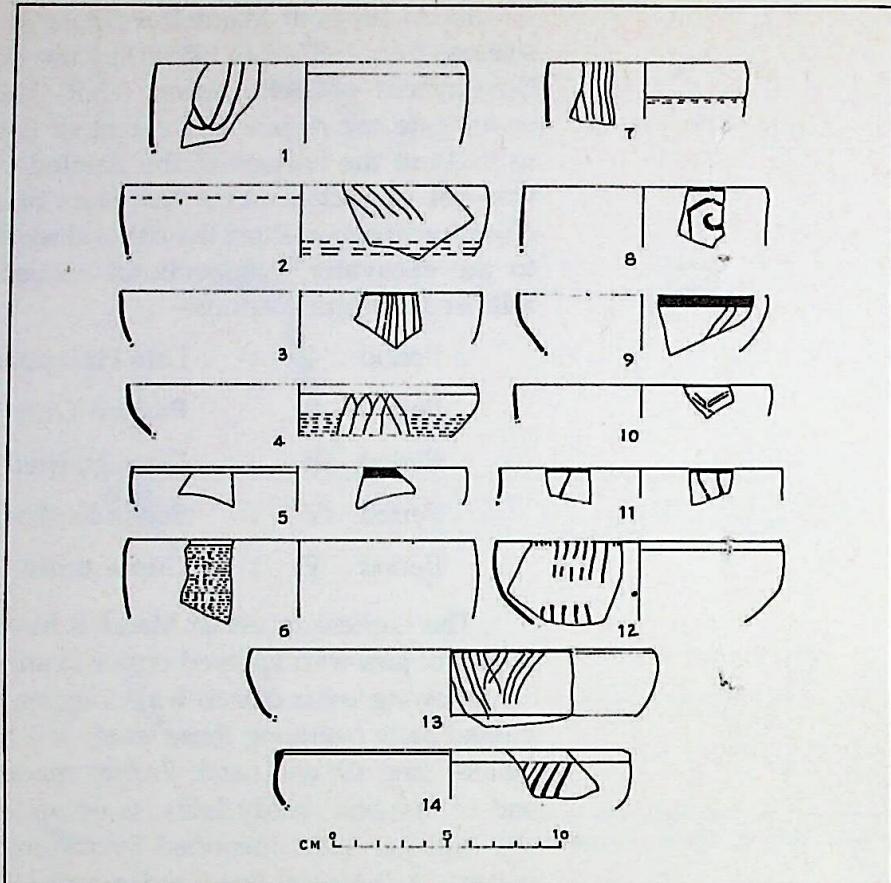


Fig.9. Mandoli: Pottery of Period II

paper besides pieces of iron slags. A time bracket of c. 1100 to 600 B.C. has been assigned to the assemblage.

Period III is represented by black slipped ware associated with plain red ware and black-and-red ware bowls, vases, jars, dishes, and basins. Settlement pattern followed the previous pattern. Associated antiquities include terracotta human and animal figurines, beads, discs, shell bangles and earstuds.

Period IV has been divided into two phases—

Phase A—Sunga

Phase B—Kushan.

Phase A is represented by red ware of medium to coarse fabric, featureless rim with stamped and incised designs. Terracotta animal figurines, gamesman, shell objects, earstuds and fishing-net weights were found from this level besides evidence of mud lumps for making structures. In the succeeding Phase B, structures of burnt bricks measuring $33 \times 22 \times 6$ and $31 \times 22 \times 5$ and $32 \times 21 \times 6$ cm were found. Two successive floors of mud and lime were noticed associated with an oven in one of the rooms. Terracotta female figurines, copper coins belonging to Vāsudeva II and rim portion

of a vase inscribed in Kushan *Brāhmī* characters are important finds of the levels of this phase. Other objects include terracotta human and animal figurines, beads of semi-precious stones, shell objects, terracotta plumb-bob, dabbers, copper rings, iron objects like arrow-head, sickle and spear. Red ware carinated *handis*, spouted vessels, spouts and miniature vessels were also found.

The last period, i.e. Period IV at the site is represented by typical red polished ware of Gupta period. A terracotta sealing with a few lines in Gupta *Brāhmī* characters decorated with a conch at the top is a notable find. Ceramics have also sometimes red slip on moulded spouts and incurved bowls with flaring sides.

Salimgarh

Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India carried out archaeological excavations at Salimgarh fort (lat. 28° 39' 40" N, long. 77° 14' 35" E) in the year 1995 under the direction of the author as Superintending Archaeologist. The objective of the excavation was to know the cultural sequence of the site which was considered to be a mound, encircled by the fort wall in the sixteenth century A.D. almost in similar fashion in which the Old Fort was constructed in the same period around the ancient mound of Indraprastha, about 6 km towards its south. The fortwall of Salimgarh was constructed in c. A.D. 1546 by Islam Shah or Salim Shah, son and successor of Sher Shah Suri.

Trenches of 10 x 10 m each were laid and excavation was carried out in a limited area of Qds. 1 and 3 of square A 1. Digging continued up to the depth of 11 m from the top surface and the natural soil could not be reached due to seepage of water as the rains had also started towards the closing of excavations. It was observed that during the time of construction of the fort, the area had much undulations and it was levelled by filling the depressions with earth mixed with sand and stone chips. The filling was sometimes even 6 m in thickness. After filling up of the area the surface was made even, over which construction of the fort buildings had begun. The rammed floor belonging to the middle of the sixteenth century A.D. was encountered spread all over in the first quadrant which might have been part of a huge courtyard of some building complex of original constructions of Salimgarh. A part of random rubble wall was also noticed constructed over the rammed floor which can be dated to the Mughal period (Pls. 6, 7). Remains of two more floors were noticed belonging to the successive phases of late Mughal period, the earlier having remains of a hearth. The top levels were found containing debris of the building material of Mughal period and antiquities and pottery of nineteenth century belonging to the Anglo-Mughal phase of history (Pl. 6).

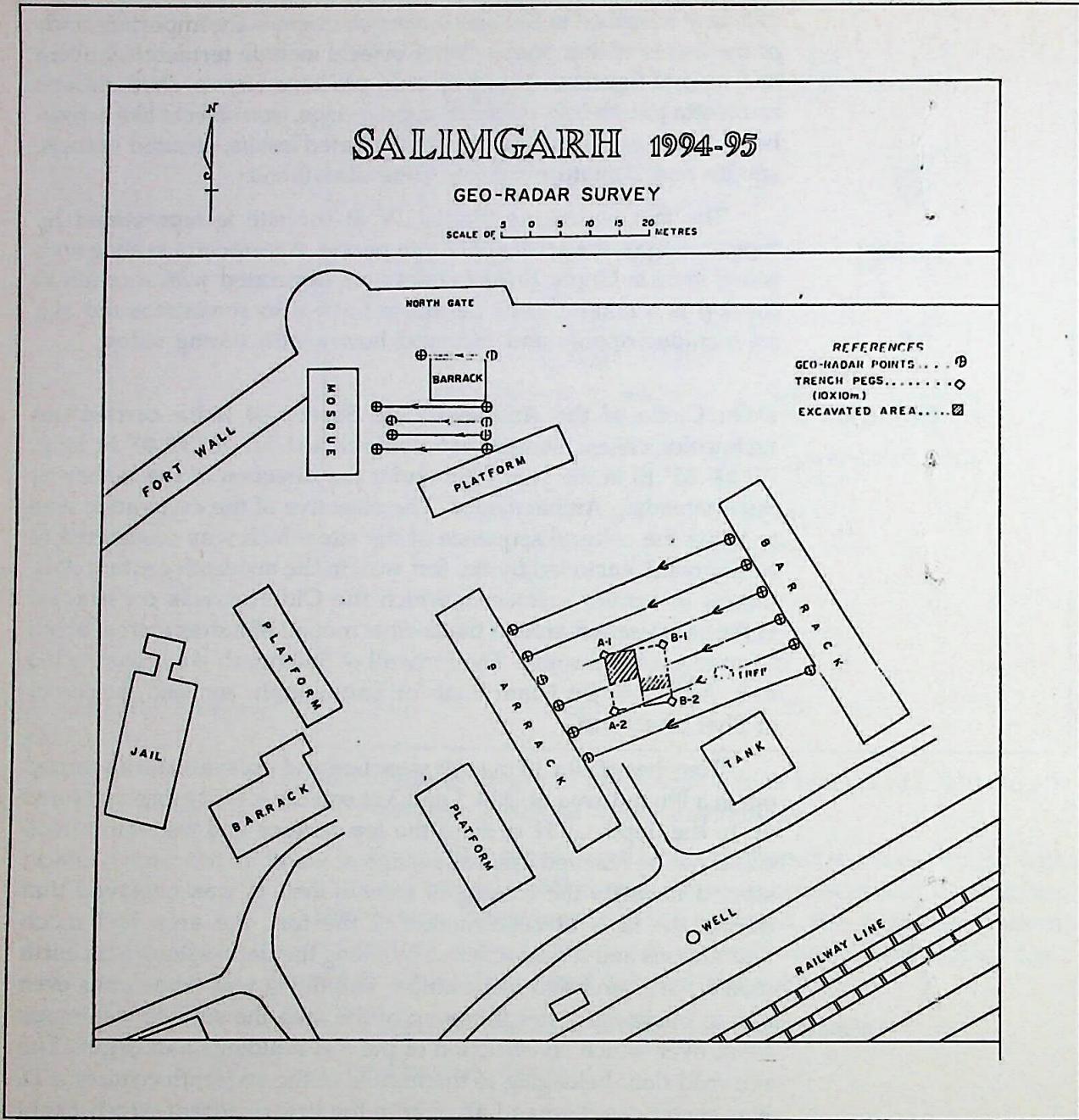


Fig.10. Salimgarh 1994-95:
Geo-Radar survey

Below the rammed floor the thick deposit of filling was removed and the loam deposit was encountered containing washed out and rolled potsherds of red ware, grey ware and Painted Grey Ware. Below this, the habitational deposit containing some pottery and animal bones was encountered which does not show signs of water-borne rolling of potsherds (Pl. 5). The antiquity of such pottery takes back the date of the site to the early first millennium B.C. The Painted Grey Ware sherds were found in late deposits also which is possible because of pit-activities and levelling of mound. Besides PGW sherds, black slipped ware, black-and-red ware, grey ware

and red ware have also been found. Two copper coins of Sultanate period were found just below the rammed floor of which one belongs to Sultan Balban (A.D. 1265-87). The Mughal ceramics include local glazed ware, Chinese porcelain, red ware including typical decorated pottery. Evidence of Mughal glassware has also been noticed. Glass bangles, semi-precious stone beads, painted terracotta figurines belonging to Mughal period have also been found. Among the important antiquities of nineteenth century lead pendant with studded glass and tobacco pipes of white plastic clay are important. One of the pipes has human face and English legends—*Glasgow* and *Helmet*, were found inscribed on them (Pl. 44). Thus the small scale excavation has provided evidence of occupation of the site from about 900 B.C. to the early historical age and after a gap again during the medieval period of Indian history to the present times.

Besides excavations, scientific debris clearance was also carried out for opening the blocked entrance on the northern side where in 1852 Bahadur Shah II, the last Mughal emperor had provided a gate which was closed during British period by stone masonry and the inner area was filled up with debris up to a maximum height of about 7 m. A pathway connected with the gate and constructed of brick-on-edge masonry of *lakhauri* bricks of late Mughal period was exposed (Pl. 8). Geo-Radar survey in the central and northern part of the fort has also been jointly conducted with the help of Ground Penetrating Radar by the scientists of the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee and the staff of Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (Fig. 10).

Khera Kalan

Khera Kalan (lat. 28° 46' 15" N, long. 77° 06' 40" E) is situated in north Delhi not far from G.T. Karnal road. It seems that the original site might have covered an area of no less than 500 x 300 m of land. Presently the high mound is almost fully occupied by residential buildings of the locality. The site was reported by K.N. Dikshit of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1968-69.¹²

During the winters of 1993-94, Director, Engineering Geology (Delhi, Punjab & Haryana of the Geological Survey of India, Faridabad) discussed about the site with the author along with his colleagues and informed that the residents of the locality of Khera Kalan desire that the area should be properly surveyed as cracks have started appearing on the walls of their houses and there is a possibility of sinking of foundations of the houses at different heights. The site was inspected on 11th January, 1994 by the author in the company of Urmila Sant, A.K. Khanna, Vishnu Kant, Nageshwar Rao and Sanjay Kumar, all from Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India and Senior Geologist from the

Geological Survey of India. We took a round of the area, climbed on the top of the mound which can be approached through narrow lanes by the side of which are located small and large house complexes.

It was very difficult to examine the site because of its almost full occupation by the residential houses. A small section of the mound facing north-west having a width of 15 m with cultural deposits of 7 m was found exposed to view on the north-western side of the mound which was approached by climbing the roofs of houses of Sri Layak Ram Sharma near house No. 245 belonging to Sri Laxmi Chand. Wooden ladders were put down on the back-side of these houses to approach the exposed section of the mound. It was found that the height of the deposit was not the complete height of the cultural deposits of the mound because at the height of about 7 m the north-western slope of the mound was levelled exposing a rectangular flat area having a width of about 5 m with the length of the exposed section mentioned above.

Some interesting pottery types and antiquities were found on surface near the exposed section of the mound. They range from PGW culture to the Kushan-Gupta period. The antiquities found there include copper coin, terracotta beads, wheels of terracotta toy-cart and plain terracotta lamps.

Among the pottery collected from the surface, sherds of Painted Grey Ware, black slipped ware, part of a lipped basin of red ware, plain bowls, basins with legged shoulder or with decorated top with wavy lines, vases of decorated shoulder with either designs of circle within circles or fish pattern in relief or with group of horizontal and vertical lines in relief were found. Vases of both decorated and plain surface of miniature to medium sizes were also collected. A piece of vase of grey ware with medium size was also obtained.

The section was scraped for the study of cultural deposits at the site and it was noticed that the deposit contains different layers including pits cut through them and these deposits give cultural sequence ranging for more than 1,500 years. The upper half of the section could not be scraped and the material recovered from different levels was carefully marked and studied.

From the existing top up to 4.80 m depth the deposit contained pottery mostly belonging to Kushan-Gupta period in the lower levels. The pottery includes incurved bowls of red ware found at the depth between 3.60 m and 4.80 m. Decorative pottery includes one with design of alternate circle within circle stamp and leaf motif stamp. Lids of red ware belonging to different levels were collected. Large size basin, storage jar and miniature pots were found from

the large pit noticed in the section. A brick with measurement 34 x 25 x 6.5 cm was found which should be of the Kushan period.

The deposit almost below the depth of 4.80 m is different in colour, texture and material from the deposits of the upper levels mentioned above. This lower deposit contains black slipped ware, grey ware and Painted Grey Ware and other associated red ware. A sherd of black slipped ware was recovered at the depth of 5.70 m along with red ware pottery. Another sherd of black slipped ware was found at the depth of 5.55 m. A grey ware sherd was recovered at the depth of 6.30 m. A sherd of Painted Grey Ware was found at the depth of 6.20 m. Charred bone pieces and grey ware were found at the depth of 5.30 m also. A few mutilated terracotta pieces with a few bones were found at the depth of 7.0 m in the exposed lowest level. No further section scraping was done below the levels up to the depth of 7.0 m. The natural soil was not encountered and there is a possibility of further deposits below the depth of 7.0 m. The deposit of Painted Grey Ware at this site seems to be around 1.50 to 2.0 m thick which is a quite substantial deposit for the study of the particular phase.

The stratigraphy showing the rich cultural deposit at the site suggests the site to be an important habitational site of protohistoric and early historical periods and if some space is made available, it requires archaeological excavation. The cracks appearing in the houses and foundation sinking are due to the fact that the whole of the present habitation on the mound, rising up to a height of no less than 14 m suggesting further deposits of later phase of history, have the modern houses constructed on the deposits. The foundations of the houses rest on cultural deposits including pits and dumps with ash, pottery and such other habitational refuse. They do not rest on solid rock base or natural compact deposits of earth and so the chances of foundation sinking and settlement increase which are evident at the site. If the present habitation is removed from the mound and resettled elsewhere, it would be beneficial for the inhabitants and also for the archaeologists who may get space for further research studies.

Kharkhari Nahar

The site at village Kharkhari Nahar (lat. 28° 35' 10" N, long. 76° 57' 15" E) near Najafgarh in the area of Jafarpur Kalan Police Station in south-west Delhi was discovered by the author¹³ on 4th April, 1990 when he was accompanied by Asad Faruqi, Dy. Commissioner of Police, South-west District and Urmila Sant, S.P. Rohatgi and Jagdish Chander of the Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Circle as some gold and silver ornaments were reported to have been found kept in an earthen pot in the fields near the village. The ornaments seemingly of late medieval origin in possession of Delhi

Police were examined and were as follows:

- a. Wristlet made of lead, the upper portion of which was covered with a thin sheet of gold having a length of 12.2 cm and mean diameter being 6.6 cm.
- b. Silver bracelet having a diameter of 8.2 cm and thickness being 0.8 cm.
- c. Solid silver necklet (*hansli*) with a diameter of 14.5 cm and thickness of 0.5 cm.
- d. Four different broken pieces of solid silver necklets.

Fields all around were explored and it was found that in the near past, the mounds were levelled and potsherds were found scattered in a large area. At two places, because of the location of a *neem* tree and a room housing tubewell, small parts of the mound were left having their exposed sections with heights of about 2 m and 2.5 m respectively. From the latter section sherds of Painted Grey Ware, grey ware and red ware were collected. Late Harappan pottery with close affinity to late and degenerate Siswal Ware and Bara elements and black-and-red ware were also collected. Black slipped ware and Sunga-Kushan red ware found there point to the early historic habitation at the site. Red ware and other medieval ceramics were also found in abundance. The site was revisited by the author in September 1991 alongwith the joint exploration team of the Delhi Circle and Excavation Branch II of the Archaeological Survey of India when the two remaining portions of the mound were found levelled to the ground. Among the important finds of the second visit mention may be made of terracotta cake, terracotta toy-cart frame, terracotta bangle pieces and ball, terracotta bead, bone point, bricks and stone objects.

Mound at Gordon Highlanders Column

The site (lat. 28° 43' 20" N, long. 77° 10' E), near Badli-ki-Sarai represented today by a small mound of about 4 m in height has a red sandstone column at the top erected in the memory of soldiers who died in the battle of Badli-ki-Sarai in the Revolt of 1857. The Painted Grey Ware association of the mound was noticed by the author¹⁴ in 1989 and a proposal was prepared by him for the protection of the site. The site was visited several times and also by the joint exploration team of the Archaeological Survey of India in September 1991. A large number of Painted Grey Ware sherds were collected besides grey ware, chocolate ware, black-and-red ware, plain and painted black slipped ware, Kushan red ware and medieval pottery of black slipped grey ware. A terracotta ball was also found. The mound has been considerably trimmed in the past and because of the location of the sandstone column the small area around it has remained intact.

A small mound towards north of Badli-ki-Sarai was noticed by Rameshwar Dayal in 1957-58¹⁵ where it was noticed that the strata yielding Painted Grey Ware was more than one meter in thickness.

Loni The high mound at Loni (lat. 28° 45' N, long. 77° 17' 30" E) on the left bank of Yamuna is about 4 km north of Mandoli and seems to have been an important centre of protohistoric and early historical activities. Nearly 15 m high mound has been cut from all the sides giving it a tapering cylindrical shape and occupied by the modern population. A 6 m wide exposed section was studied by the joint exploration team¹⁶ of the Archaeological Survey of India in August 1991 under the direction of the author and C.L. Suri as only that portion was exposed to view, rest of the sections had modern constructions against them. Painted Grey Ware was found in a thick deposit below which was noticed a phase containing waterlogged red ware. Above the deposit of Painted Grey Ware was noticed a deposit containing fine pieces of bowls of black slipped ware followed by other early historical deposits.

Bankner The site at Bankner (lat. 28° 51' 10" N, long. 77° 4' 30" E) is located at a distance of about 4 km north of Bhorgarh. It is also known as Bajukhera. The site was visited by the joint inspection team of the Archaeological Survey of India and it was informed by a member of the team that Painted Grey ware was found there, but during our visit¹⁷ in September 1991 it was not found. The site was almost destroyed by modern constructions. Grey Ware, red ware and potsherds of early and late medieval periods were found. A terracotta lamp, a terracotta hopscotch and a polished sandstone piece with three deep cut marks were found at the site.

Jhatikara The mounds at Jhatikara (lat. 28° 31' 15" N, long. 76° 58' E) are located towards south of Najafgarh, about 7 km from village Kharkhari Nahar in south-west Delhi.¹⁸ Three mounds were discovered there by the joint exploration team in September 1991. The largest mound revealed Painted Grey Ware, Grey Ware, black Slipped Ware, black-and-red ware and Kushan red ware in less quantity while medieval ceramics including red ware, both plain and painted with black colour, glazed pottery, Mughal painted grey ware and Chinese porcelain were found besides three copper coins of Sultanate period, stone bead, glass bangles of many types of medieval period, a stone ball and pieces of medieval glass bottles. A Mughal period mosque is also located near the site. From the other two mounds pottery and antiquities of Sultanate period and Mughal period were found, though some early historical remains were also noticed. The

important finds include iron sickle, glass bangle pieces, brass objects, a carnelian bead and a few stone objects. The site was later put to excavations in the year 1995-96 by the Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Delhi which have found mostly medieval remains at the site.

Growing constructions and levelling of old mounds have badly affected the whole of the city including its village areas. Some of the ancient mounds which were in existence about fifty years ago or so like Majnu-ka-tila in north Delhi or Jogabai mound near Okhla have fully disappeared. The Painted Grey Ware site on the right bank of Yamuna near the Wazirabad barrage at Timarpur¹⁹ which was discovered in 1971-72 by B.M. Pande of the Archaeological Survey of India has also been eroded. The occurrence of Late Harappan elements and Painted Grey Ware at Dhansa²⁰ and other sites along with late and degenerate Siswal Ware culture have provided sufficient evidence of the protohistoric activities in Delhi towards the end of the second millennium B.C. With the discovery of Aśoka's Minor Rock Edict near East of Kailash²¹ in south Delhi and excavations at Purana Qila the knowledge about early historical archaeology of Delhi has increased and at present after excavations of a few sites in Delhi we are in a comfortable position to add much more about the protohistoric and early historical archaeology of the region.

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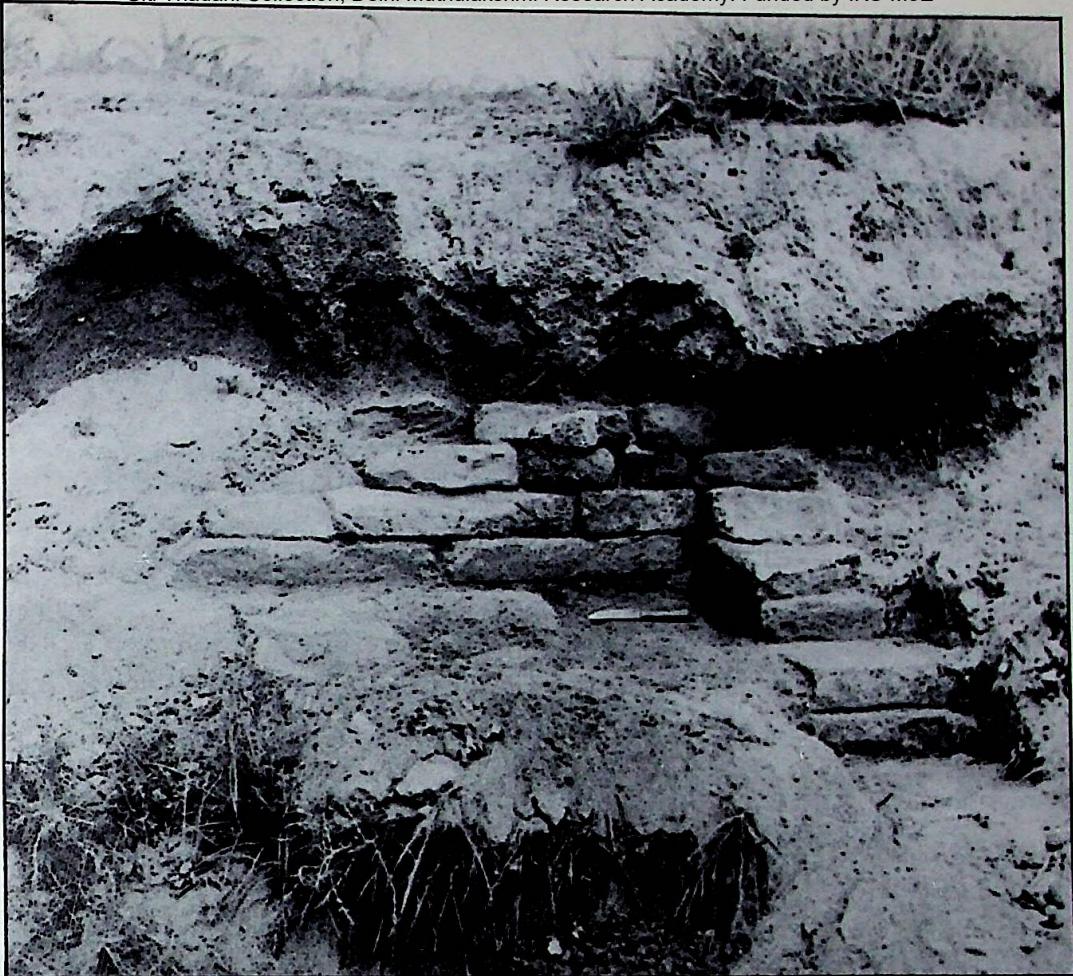
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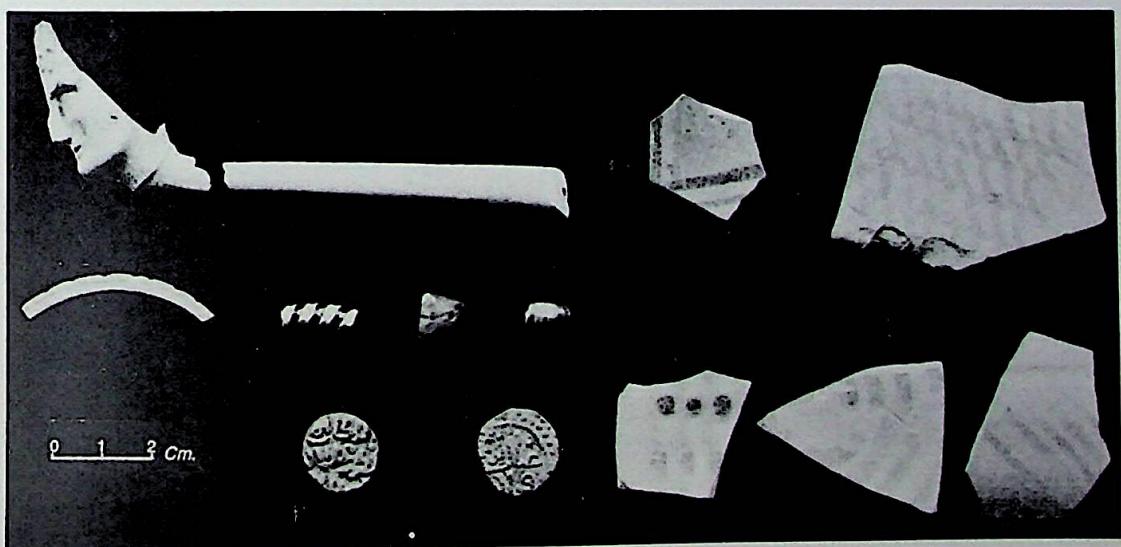
Excavations at Purana Qila (1954-55, 1969-73)

Purana Qila is the citadel of the sixth city of Delhi, foundations of which were laid by Mughal emperor Humayun in the second quarter of the sixteenth century A.D. while he inhabited the city all around and called it Dinpanah. Sher Shah Suri, after his occupation of the Mughal territories, completed the fort and added his own buildings. The fort was again occupied by Humayun when he returned in A.D. 1555 and died here.

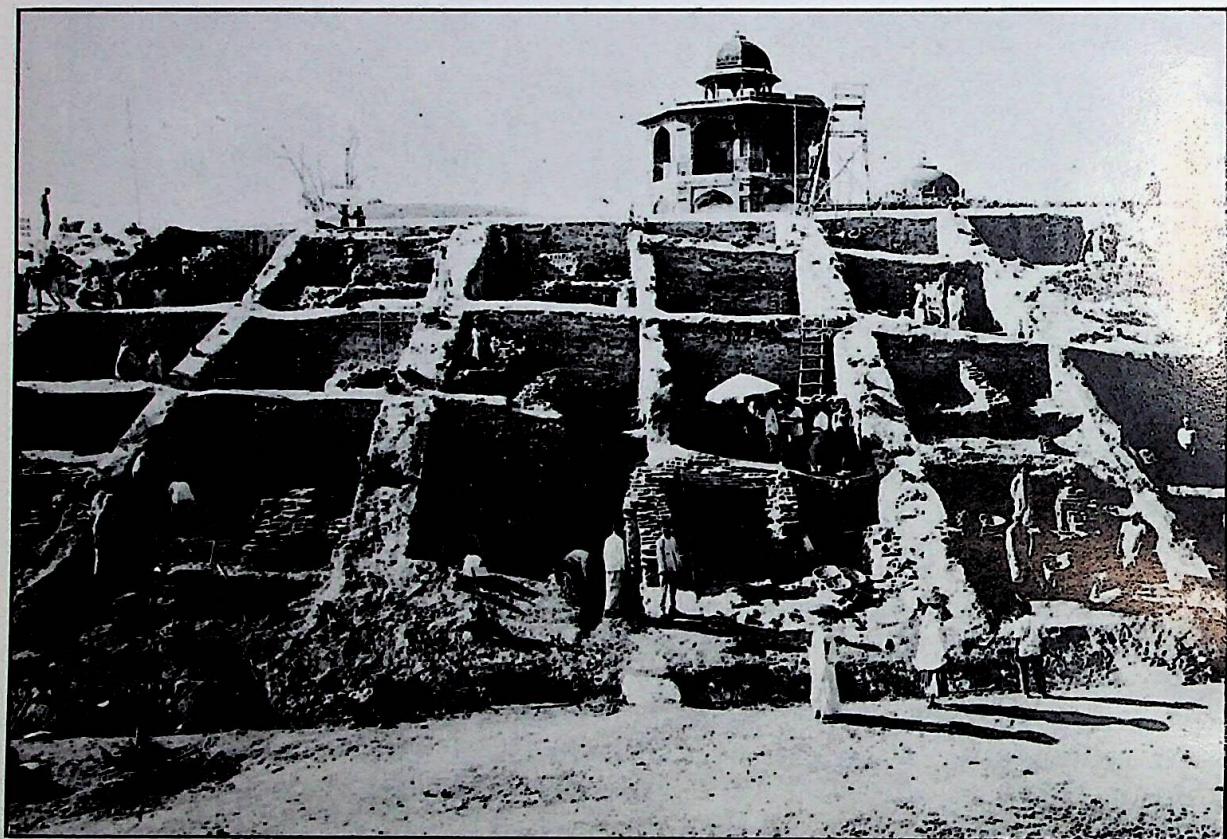
The fort walls were constructed on the slopes of a huge ancient mound which is traditionally believed to represent the site of Indraprastha, the capital of Pāṇḍavas. Indraprastha as a city has been mentioned in the literary texts of the historical period and the fort area is still mentioned in the revenue records as mauza Indrapat. The epic *Mahābhārata* contains vivid description of the clearing of forest Khāṇḍavaprastha and construction of the palace by the Pāṇḍavas with the help of Maya, the demon architect. In order to ascertain the antiquity of the site and the possibility of its exact identification with Indraprastha, a trial excavation was carried out by B.B. Lal of the Archaeological Survey of India in the season 1954-55.¹ Although evidence of Painted Grey Ware dishes and bowls were noticed in the lowest levels at three points along with copper as the main metal used by the people in the forms of sickle, nail-parers, antimony rods etc., the stratigraphical horizon of pre-Northern Black Polished Ware period was not very clear. Remains of NBPW period contained mainly the pottery, structures of houses made of kiln-burnt bricks, terracotta ring wells (Pl. 46), iron implements and punch-marked and copper cast coins. The period represented the general time bracket of 600 to 200 B.C. It was followed by the levels having evidence of the sway of rulers of Mathura in the second century B.C., the Yaudheyas in the first



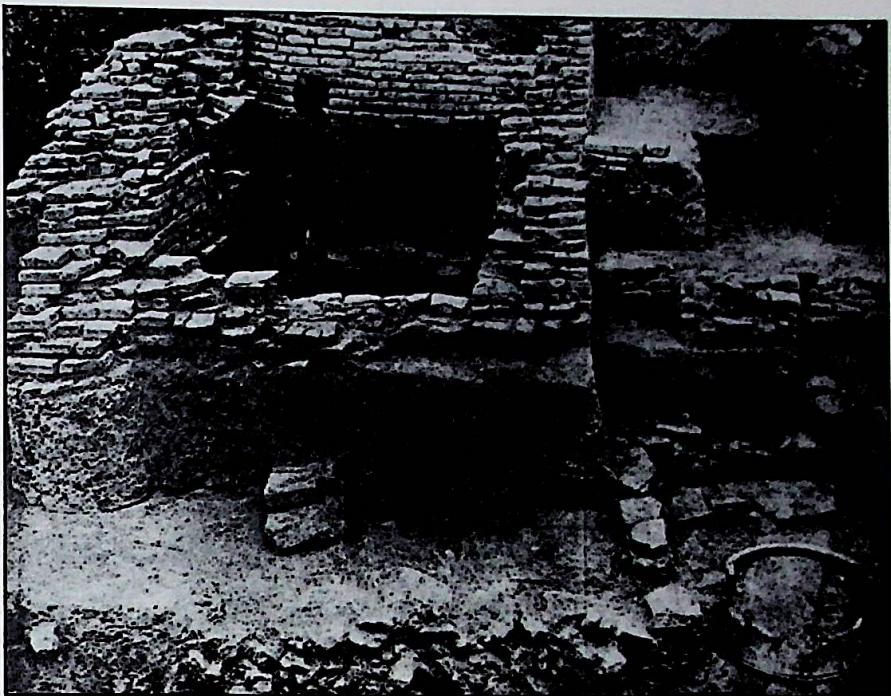
Pl. 43. Bhorgarh: Kushan structure.



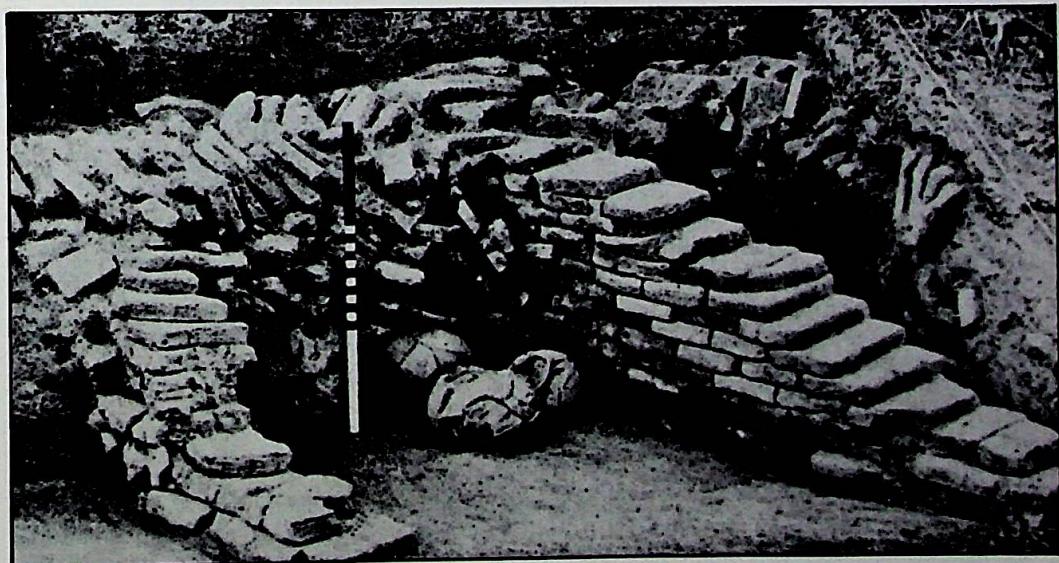
Pl. 44. Salimgarh 1994-95: PGW sherds, coins and other antiquities.



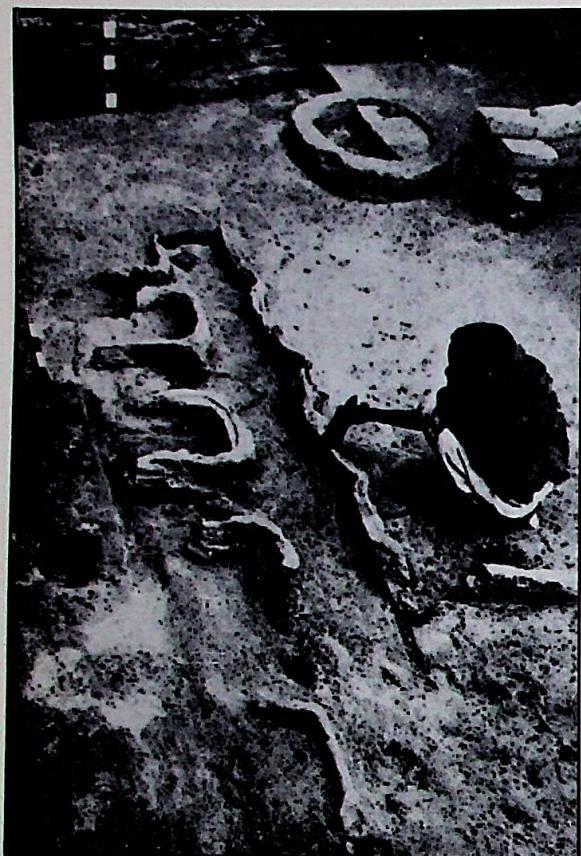
Pl. 45. Purana Qila 1969-73: General view of excavations.



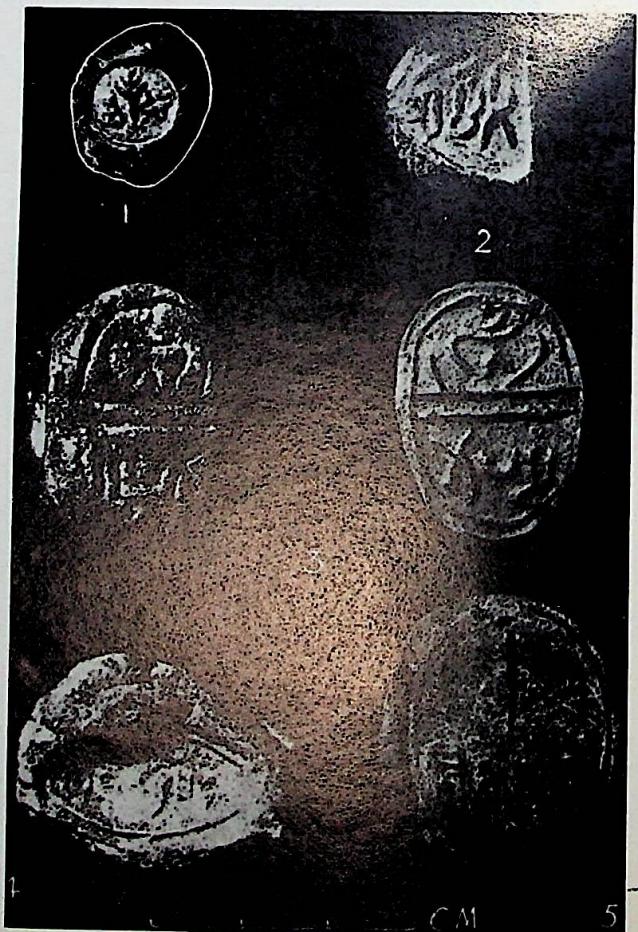
Pl. 46. Purana Qila 1954-55: A ring well and structures, 500-200 B.C.



Pl. 47. Purana Qila 1954-55: Structures of Kushan period.



Pl. 48. Purana Qila 1970-71: Series of hearths, Maurya period.



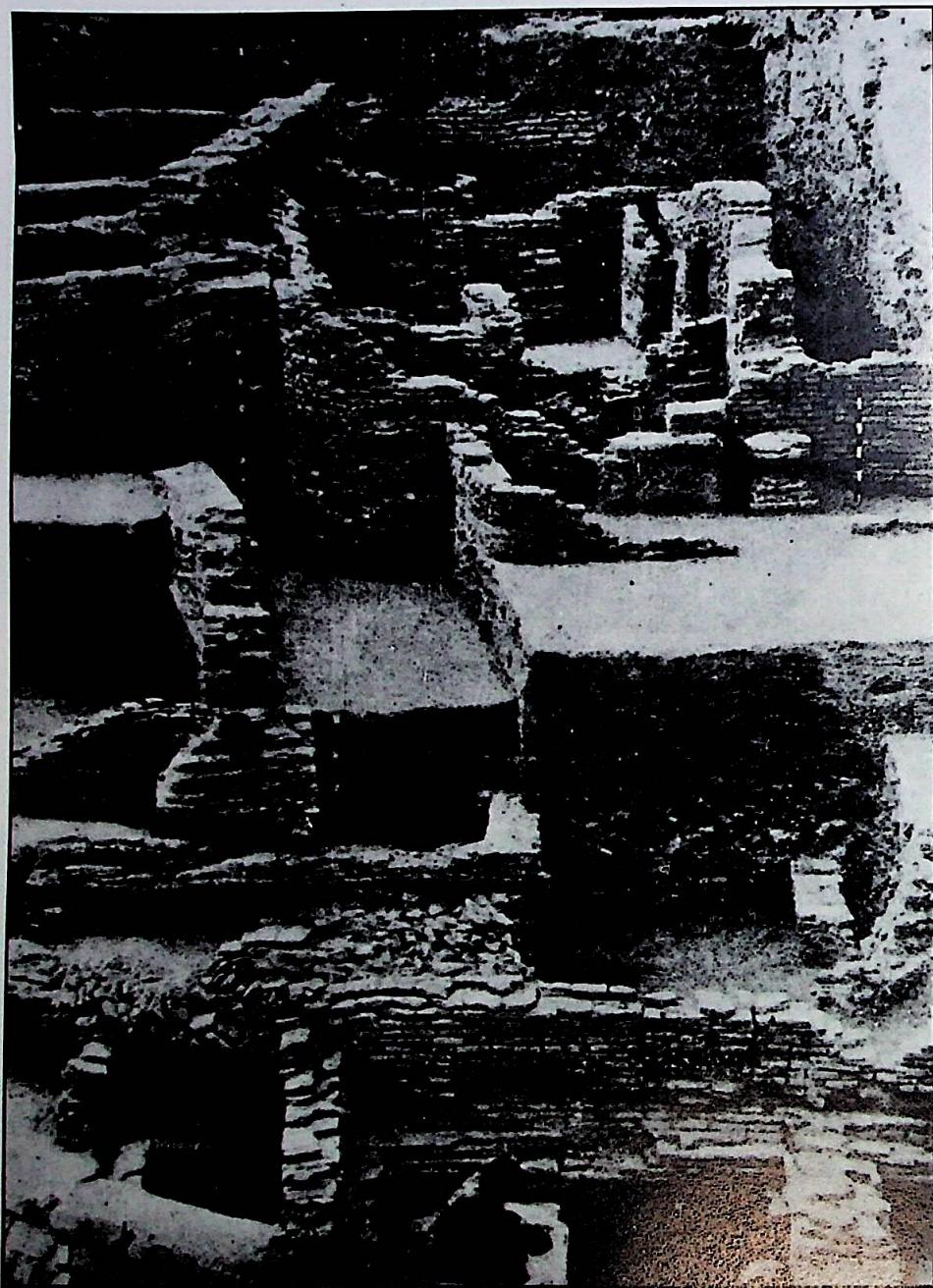
Pl. 49. Purana Qila 1969-70: Terracotta seals and sealings, Maurya, Sunga and Kushan periods.



Pl. 50. Purana Qila 1969-70: Structures with a flight of steps, Saka-Kushan period.



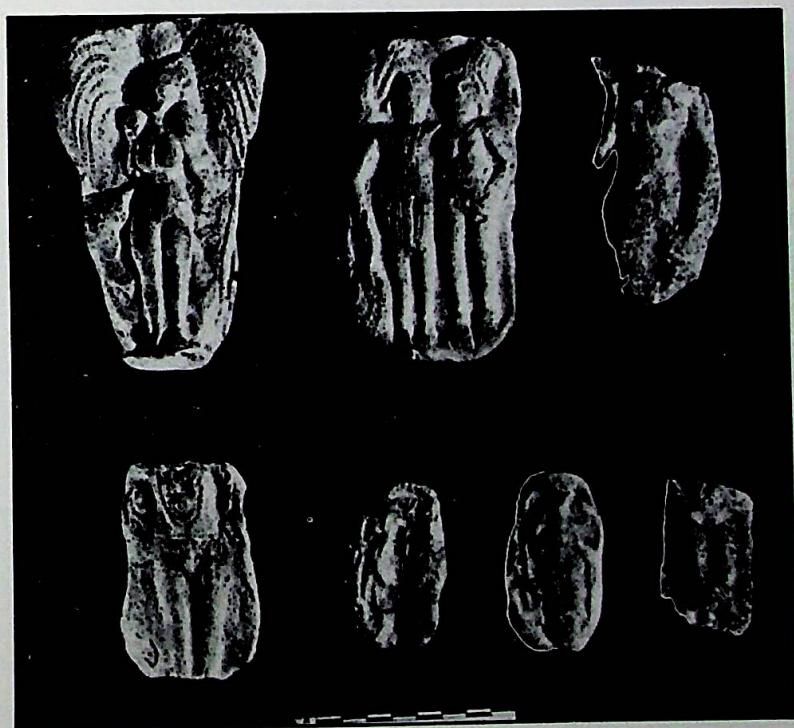
Pl. 51. Purana Qila 1954-55: Kushan pottery.



Pl. 52. Purana Qila 1970-71: Structures of Kushan (foreground) and Gupta (background) periods.



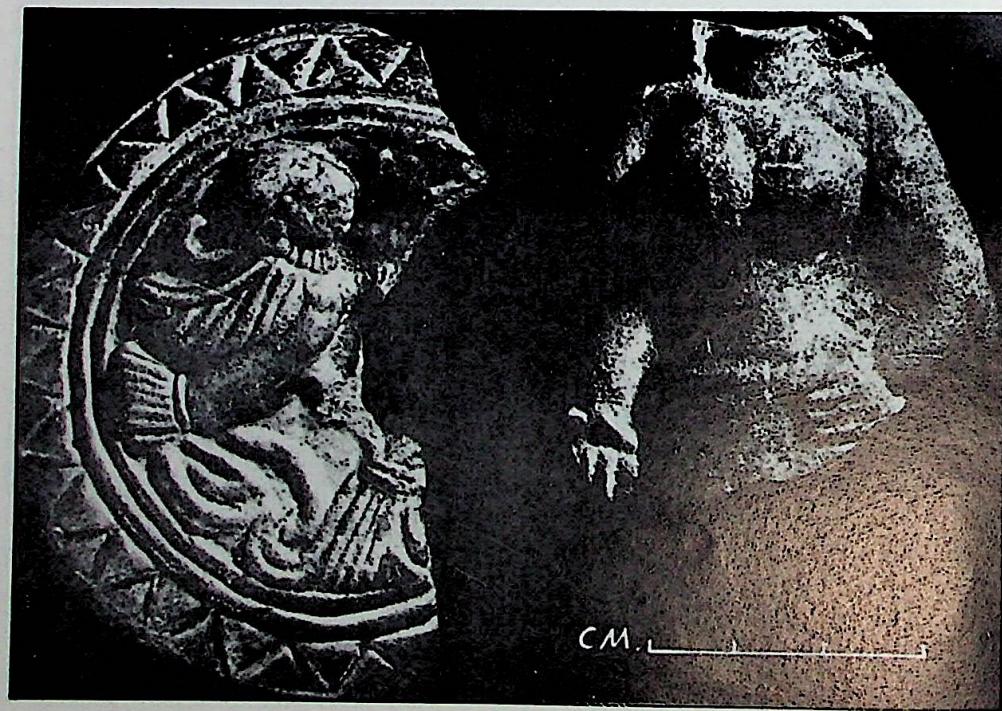
Pl. 53. Purana Qila 1969-70: Terracotta human figurines, Maurya period.



Pl. 54. Purana Qila 1969-70: Terracotta plaques, Sunga period.



Pl. 55. Purana Qila 1969-70: Terracotta human figurines, Saka-Kushan period.



Pl. 56. Purana Qila 1969-70: Moulded pottery lid bearing Kinnara and a terracotta female figurine, Gupta period.

century A.D. and the Kushans in the second-third centuries A.D. (Pls. 47, 51).

Since the excavation remained incomplete in 1954-55, it was decided by the Archaeological Survey of India to resume excavations in 1969-70 which continued up to the season 1972-73² (Pl. 45) under the directions of B.B. Lal, B.K. Thapar, M.C. Joshi and N.C. Ghosh. The objectives were to obtain complete sequence of occupation at the site, to expose the pre-Mauryan strata including the regular horizon of Painted Grey Ware, to lay bare sizable portions of settlement of each period and to impart field-training to the students of the School of Archaeology. Excavations conducted towards east of Sher Mandal on the slopes in a stepped manner facilitated the rare and clear view of the structures of each successive period. The continuous sequence of occupation from Mauryan levels upwards through Sunga, Kushan, Gupta, post-Gupta, Rajput, Delhi Sultanate up to Mughal period was found.

Painted Grey Ware Period

Although during the earlier work and during the later four seasons, a number of points at the site were tapped and serious efforts were made to lay bare the pre-NBPW horizon of Painted Grey Ware culture which was occasionally found, but separate picture of it in a clearly stratified position could not emerge. Tentatively it was believed that the earliest settlement here might have begun around 1000 B.C. "Trial digs at three different areas of the site failed to yield the regular cultural horizon of the Painted Grey Ware. Nevertheless, the occurrence of some sherds of this ware, some of them used as hopscotches, did indicate that the regular deposits of the ware must have existed hereabouts."³ There is also a possibility of an overlap in the earliest levels of Painted Grey Ware and NBPW as indicated by the occurrence of a few fine and thin grey ware sherds, closely affiliated to the Painted Grey Ware along with a fragment of an offering stand in red ware in the levels associated with the NBPW in one of the trenches excavated in the season 1971-72. This may provide a late date of the beginning of the settlement as well as of the Painted Grey Ware at the site.

NBPW Period

NBPW levels were encountered during the first season at the depth of about 9 m from the surface indicating the deposits of Mauryan period, characterised by the occurrence of mud floors, NBPW, grey terracotta human and animal figurines, an uninscribed copper cast coin and a clay sealing bearing motifs of arched hill, tree and a hollow cross.

During the first season the natural soil was not encountered, but in the second season the Mauryan levels were found to overlie the natural soil. Structural remains containing a series of hearths

(Pl. 48) and a rectangular burnt wattle-and-daub structure, drains of baked bricks of both rectangular ($44 \times 22 \times 6$ cm and $50 \times 25 \times 7$ cm) and wedge-shaped variety (45×30 and 17×7 cm), the latter intended to be used for some circular structure or well and houses of mud bricks ($25 \times 20 \times 6$ cm) were found. "A significant feature of the period was the occurrence of terracotta ring wells, 75 cm in diameter. The technique of sinking these ring wells seems to have been as follows: an oblong pit with a narrow rounded end was dug to the required depth; the terracotta rings were thereafter fitted one above the other towards the rounded end by a workman standing in the remaining part of the pit; after the completion of the ring-well, the pit was filled up to the brim."⁴ Sanskrit term to the ring well is *gandakusūla*.

Interesting finds of the NBPW deposits of the Mauryan period include a fragment of a sculptured ring-stone associated with the mother-goddess, terracotta human (Pl. 53) and animal figurines, a horse-rider wearing armour, a terracotta seal reading *Seyankarasa* and another *Svati* (?) *rakhitasa*, a dish of the NBPW showing a stamped figure of an elephant on the inner base, small rings and disc of agate, an undeciphered circular seal with early *Brāhmi* characters and a sealing with the legend *Ayadinasa* in early *Brāhmi* characters.

Sunga Period

The Sunga period was characterised by the presence of three distinct structural phases, of which structures of the first two were built of quartzite rubble, set in mud mortar, and those of the third were of mud bricks ($50 \times 26 \times 6$ cm). A patch of burnt mud plaster on one of the walls of the third phase of structures indicated the burning of it. The floors were found to have been made of rammed earth, occasionally flagged with mud bricks. Two rooms of the size of 2.40×2.40 m and 2.50×2.25 m were fully exposed. At one point a doorway was also located.

The notable finds of Sunga period include typical miniature bowl with incurved rim, large number of terracotta plaques (Pl. 54) depicting *mithunas*, a standing female deity under foliage, Lakshmi, yakshas and yakshis, a female lute player, a small spouted anthropomorphic pot, a terracotta figurine of a nude and headless standing male in Greek style holding some indistinct object in the right hand, terracotta animal figurines, a few moulds representing female figurines, bone points, various types of beads, terracotta sealings (Pl. 49) with legends *Dhamagiri*, *Katakara*, terracotta seals and sealings with legends *Patithakasa*, *Svātigutasa*, *Usasenasa* and *Thiyasa*, the last of which might have been a transliteration of the Greek name Theos, a peculiar sealing, of which four specimens were found, bearing only one *Brāhmi* letter *Pe* with four symbols.

Interestingly, sherds of NBPW were also found in the late levels of this period.

Saka-Kushan Period

The Saka-Kushan period at the site was represented by the remains of regularly-built structures of baked bricks. Size of bricks was 37 x 22 x 5 cm. Some variations in the size of brick were also noticed as 37 x 27 x 5 cm or 38 x 23 x 5 cm. Remains of a flight of steps (Pl. 50) were also found in one of the houses. Evidence of the use of mud bricks was not wanting. Two rooms were exposed fully, having the size of 1.80 x 1.80 m. Width of their doorways was 75 cm. Inside a house, traces of a brick-paved floor were also found. Ceramic industry of the period includes typical Kushan bowls and sprinklers. Red ware of medium fabric was the main pottery which also included decorative designs consisting of spirals, *śrīvatsa*, *svastika* and fish motifs including stamped decorative designs. Other important finds of the period comprised copper coins of Mathura kings, Kushans and Yaudheyas, terracotta plaques and figurines showing deities and animals including an impressive human head wearing a decorated cap, a small yaksha (Kubera) figure made out of a double mould, a turbaned head with moustache and bearing on the forehead the mark of *ūrnā* (Pl. 55), a damaged plaque depicting a divinity holding a bunch of grapes and a plaque showing three elephant-riders, fragments of a terracotta votive tank, terracotta skin rubbers, a small piece of an ivory handle, crucibles, bone dice of various types. Fragment of a red sandstone *sūchi* or crossbar with lotus medallions on each face belonging to some Kushan railing was found in the levels of Mughal period but indicated the existence of some Kushan religious structure at the site.

Gupta Period

The Gupta period was distinguished by the remains of brick structures having three to four structural phases (Pl. 52). Interestingly, bricks of the earlier period were found reused in Gupta period and orientation of the houses was also changed. A remarkable structure showing reused baked bricks of earlier period was found having three to four phases of construction (Fig. 11). Originally, the house was constructed on an oblong plan with a partition wall. Afterwards a verandah or a room with a rounded quoin was added to its front side. Later in the third phase floor levels were raised, steps were provided and two longitudinal partition walls were erected inside the house complex. During the same phase a brick pedestal having the height of 60 cm with a stepped base was built against the wall on one side of the entrance. A new verandah was added in the front side of the house in the last phase and earlier floor levels were considerably raised adding steps to it. A sealing with Gupta *Brāhma* legend and a gold-plated coin of the archer type

PURANA QILA, DELHI
EXCAVATED STRUCTURE
(GUPTA PERIOD)

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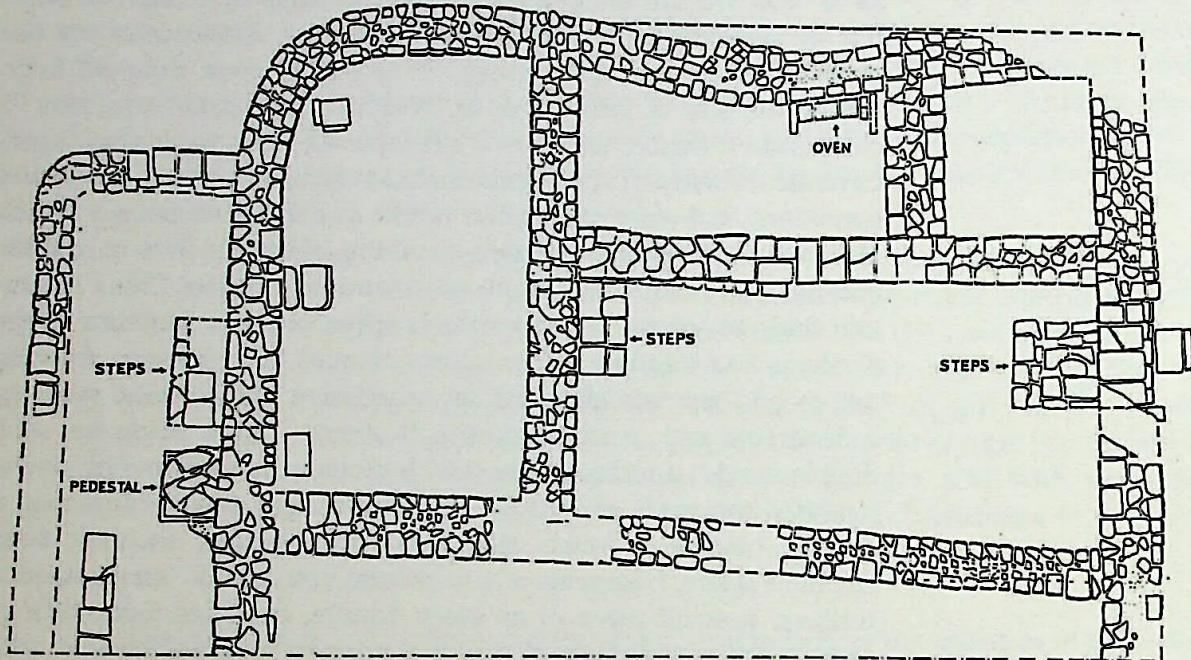
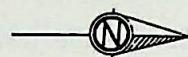


Fig.11. Purana Qila: Excavated structure (Gupta period)

with *Śrī Vikrama* legend on the reverse were found below the debris of the last phase.

Moulded pottery, including a lid bearing the representation of *Kinnara* (Pl. 56) and painted pots were interesting ceramic evidence of the period. Important finds comprise terracotta human figurines, terracotta sealings bearing legends in Gupta *Brāhma* characters including one having the outline of a conch above and legend *Gopasya* below, *Jitam bhāgavata*, *Śrī Traividya*, *Śrī Makarasya*, *Śrī Āryavama* (?) with a Sassanian fire altar above and *Śrī Gudhadasah* bearing a set of footprints above, a broken shell bangle with decorative carving and a small and damaged *mukha-linga* in red sandstone.

Post-Gupta Period

The post-Gupta period was represented by structures made of reused bricks and sagging walls. Three phases of this period were encountered, structures of which were constructed of baked or mud bricks. Mostly baked bricks of earlier phase were reused. Size of mud bricks was 30 x 24 x 4 cm. Various types of oven,

some resembling modern *tandoors* were also found. Red ware was the main ceramic industry of the period in which knife-edged bowl was a distinctive type along with a few decorated potsherds including a *pranala* type spout. Fragments of terracotta figurines, beads and fine but damaged stone sculpture were important finds of the period.

Rajput Period

Five structural phases were encountered in the levels of Rajput period. Bricks including mud bricks of earlier period were also found reused. An interesting evidence of alternate courses of baked and mud bricks was found in the wall of a house complex. Mud floors with hearths or ovens were found in some houses. Rubble structures were also noticed. The most impressive structure of this period was a stone enclosure or fortification wall which perhaps belonged to the time of the Tomar rule (Pl. 57). Anang Pal II has been credited to have founded the first city of Delhi with Lal Kot as his citadel in the middle of the eleventh century A.D. As described earlier on the basis of Sarban stone inscription of A.D. 1327, after the establishment of the first city of Delhi ancient Indraprastha which had already lost its predominant position as a city had become a *pratigana* or *pargana* of Delhi. It seems that during this period the site of Purana Qila had become some lower administrative unit or watch post and the enclosure wall exposed at the site represents the archaeological evidence of the same. This enclosure wall, exposed to a length of over 30 m and badly damaged on the east, was built of rubble with a basal width of 1.5 m. The damage on the eastern side might have been caused due to flood in the river Yamuna which flowed close to it.

Ceramic industry of the period was mainly red and black wares, occasionally decorated with simple painted, stamped or incised designs—the knuckle design being a common feature on the rims of the vases. Important finds include circular copper coins of the horseman-and-bull type, terracotta beads, a sherd with damaged *Nāgarī* inscription, ornate moulded bricks, a lipped jug containing bells, *ghunghrus* and other objects of copper, pieces of coral and a crystal, a carnelian bead, high necked jars resembling *surahi*, shallow dishes, a few fragments of carved stone tablets and a small figure of Viṣṇu in stone. Crude terracotta human figurines (Pl. 58) were also found but after the excavations at Lal Kot (1992-95) handmade bearded male figurines in terracotta have been assigned to the early Sultanate period and not to the Rajput period as they have been assigned during excavations at Purana Qila.

Sultanate Period

It seems that much attention was paid in the excavations towards remains of earlier periods and the Sultanate period remains were

sandwiched between the important earlier remains and the three structural phases of the following Mughal period. This may be the reason of mixing of some antiquarian remains of Sultanate period. During the first season of excavations, houses of Sultanate period were found constructed over the debris of earlier structures and bricks were also found reused. Some of the rubbles used in the walls of houses were partly dressed. No structural remains of Sultanate period were found in next season's of excavations. While describing the antiquarian remains, the excavators have described Sultanate and Mughal period remains together in the second season's preliminary report comprising glazed ware, animal and human terracotta figurines, earthen lamps, a few pieces of Chinese porcelain of the Ming period and a few coins, including that of Muhammad Tughlaq whose date has been wrongly quoted⁵ as A.D. 1392-1412 which should be A.D. 1325-51 or the coin may belong to Mahmud Tughlaq instead of Muhammad Tughlaq. During the first season glazed ware, both of sandy friable as also of normal texture, coins of Balban and Firuz Shah Tughlaq were obtained. Coins of Iltutmish, Balban, Alauddin Khalji and Firuz Shah Tughlaq were also found in the last season's work but in the levels of Mughal period. During the third season a hoard of twenty coins containing those of Rajput and early Sultanate rulers was found inside an earthen pot tied in a piece of cloth from the so-called pre-Mughal levels.⁶

Mughal Period

Structural remains of Mughal period were mostly exposed during the last two seasons. During the first season only a few structures of dressed rubble were encountered. In all three structural phases of Mughal period were found in the excavations in last two seasons—two phases in the earlier and three phases in latter. In the first phase remains of a stone-flagged court and an adjoining large brick structure with about 1.2 m thick wall and houses with lime-plastered floors and sunken basins were exposed. It was again noticed that bricks and rubble of earlier periods were reused in this phase and were occasionally finished with lime plaster. Troughs or small sized tanks were found associated with lime plastered floors, one of them measured 1.20 x 0.75 m and contained a large quantity of ash, some potsherds and a tiny damaged gold leaf embossed with the figure of a horse within a decorative frame. To this structural phase were associated two round *tandoor* type ovens on a floor.

The second structural phase was akin to the constructions of the first phase and it was represented by a house complex with a central oblong passage which was blocked on the northern side by a wall of brickbats set in mortar. Some of the floors had the

evidence of large earthen jars for storage purpose buried in them.

The third structural phase contained structures of rubble and *lakhauri* bricks. Most important structure of this phase was the better preserved hammam complex which "consisted of an underground chamber, showing five rows of dwarf piers of bricks, plastered with mud and bearing marks of burning and with a semicircular projection towards its eastern side and two other side rooms and an overground drain and parts of floors."⁷ A heating chamber was also identified with rooms on the sides and the main entrance towards west. Its eastern part was much damaged. Belonging to this phase was also found a house with square cistern.

The principal ceramic industries were glazed ware, a deluxe eggshell thin grey ware with elaborate exterior, the Chinese celadon ware and the Chinese porcelain ware (Pl. 59). Some of the porcelain wares contained painted inscriptions as 'made under the great Ming Dynasty in the Cheng Hua Era' (A.D. 1465-87). One inscription recorded a fairy tale in verse. Joining the fragments by means of iron rivets was noticed on some of these wares suggesting their importance as treasured possession. Storage jars and highly ornate pot with handle and a knobbed-base were noteworthy findings. Significant antiquities from Mughal levels include coins of Adil Shah Sur, Shah Alam and East India Company, glass wine-bottles with amphalos bases, a gold ear ornament studded with emerald and pearls, shell and glass bangles, beads of semi-precious stones, a *surahi* decorated with cypress design on the exterior, fragments of coloured tiles, terracotta finials with numerous incised and stamped designs, a terracotta lamp-stand, one gold and several copper coins, the gold coin having *dipastambha* flanked by a *Saikha* and *Cakra* motifs on the reverse and *Nāgarī* legend *Sri Singhana-Kava* (...) *devi* on obverse, fifty micro beads of glass and other household objects. It was also noticed that for construction of structures and floors, earlier levels were dug and thus earlier antiquities were also found in the levels of Mughal period.

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Excavations at Lal Kot and Anang Tal (1992-95)

The Fort and Palaces

Lal Kot (lat. 28° 31' 40" N, long. 77° 11'E) is the earliest known fort in Delhi which is supposed to have been constructed in the middle of the eleventh century A.D. by Anang Pal II, the Tomar ruler of Delhi. Its lofty walls, massive bastions and gateways are mostly damaged and sporadically covered with debris. In its enlarged form the fort encloses the Qutb Archaeological Area, Anang Tal, the citadel mound and other smaller mounds and ruined structures covered with debris all along the inner side of the fort from Adham Khan's tomb towards its west and north along the southern gate, Ranjit or Ghazni gate, Fateh burj and gate towards its east and Sohan burj and Sohan gate towards the north of the citadel mound. The last three gates have evidences of outworks for their protection. The original Rajput fort seems to have been enlarged in the Khalji period towards east of Sohan gate encircling the Qutb Archaeological Area and terminating near Adham Khan's tomb where it meets the original fortification as also evidenced by the excavations conducted earlier. Remains of a gateway has also been noticed¹ towards south of Yogmaya's temple which is identifiable with Bhind gate mentioned by Muslim chroniclers. The Chaumukha gate situated towards south-east of Qutb on Lal Kot's extension was a later structure. The Ranjit gate which is about 6 m wide obdurate in the form of upright Delhi quartzite stones with a groove for guiding the ascent and descent of a portcullis for the defence of the gateway. The approach to the gate was strengthened by a double line of works and by three separate outworks immediately in its front. On the basis of Ziauddin Barni and some other authentications Cunningham tried to identify this gate with the Ghazni gate (Fig. 12) which was named after the conquering troops from Ghazni.²

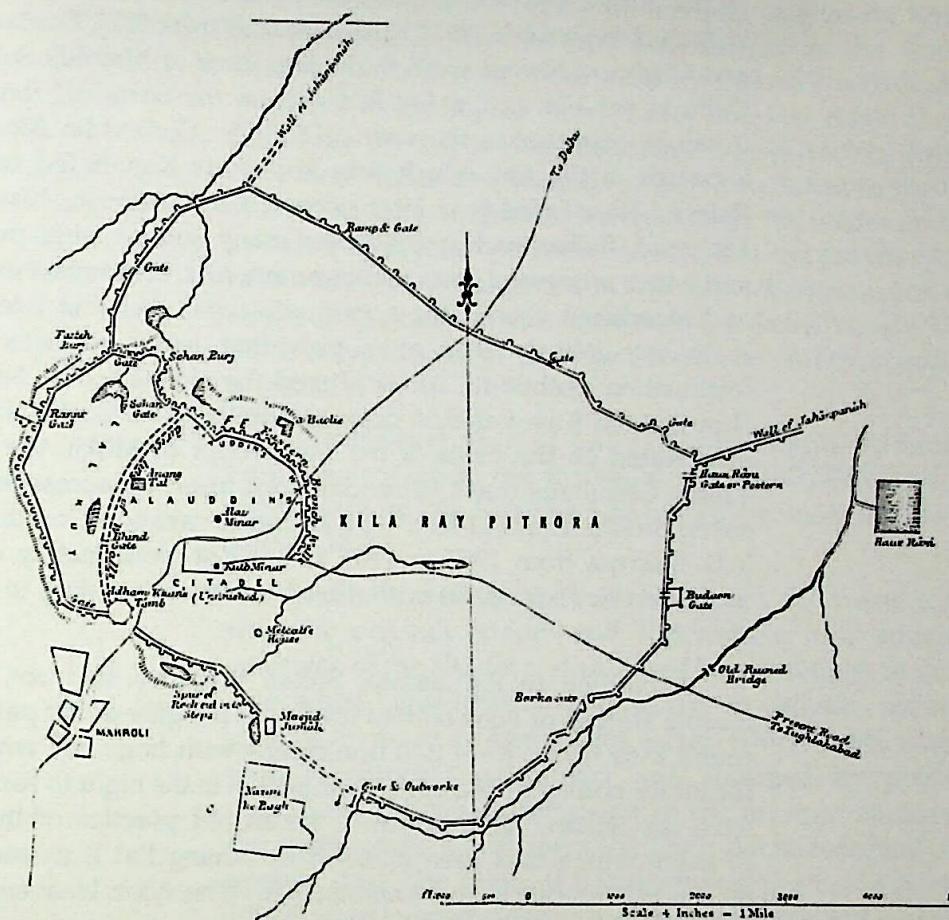


Fig.12. Lal Kot and Kila Ray Pithora (Qila Rai Pithora)

The circumference of the ramparts is nearly 3.6 km with varying thickness ranging between 3 and 9 m. The total area of the fort is 7,63,875 sq. m. The ramparts are surrounded by a ditch and the height of the ramparts from the bottom of the ditch is nearly 20 m at some places. At small interstices there are semicircular bastions 20 to 30 m in diameter. It is presumed that Anang Pal II peopled Delhi and constructed the Lal Kot between A.D. 1052 and 1060. Cunningham³ has quoted the short inscription on Mehrauli iron pillar as *Samvat Dihali 1109 Ang (Anariga) Pāl Bahi*⁴ which corresponds to A.D. 1052 and also confirms the same on the basis of two manuscripts obtained from Garhwal and Kumaon regions which state that on the tenth day of Mārgaśīrṣa in Sa=mvat 1117 (or A.D. 1060) Anang Pal built the fort of Delhi and called it Lal Kot. Amir Khusrau also mentions the palace of Anang Pal⁵ and the *Ain-i-Akbari* and a few other works are specific about the residence of Qutbuddin Aibak and Iltutmish in the fort of Rai Pithora which

is none other than the Lal Kot. This area was thoroughly surveyed by the author with his team of the Archaeological Survey of India in August-September 1991.⁶ Kushk-Firozi, Kushk-Sabj, Daulat-Khana and Chabutra-Nasira were the palace sites of Mamluk Sultans of Delhi in the old city of Lal Kot and on the basis of Ibn Batuta it can be said that in the year A.D. 1205. Qutbuddin Aibak built a palace in the fort which was known as Kasr-Safed or White Palace.⁷ Kasr-Safed was later occupied by Iltutmish, Nasiruddin Mahmud, Balban and others where many Sultans were enthroned and which witnessed great pomp, ceremonies, contumacious brawls and bloodshed, then being turned into royal prison in later times. It is not unlikely that after providing extra defences to the fortification Qutbuddin Aibak altered the old palace of Anang Pal II or erected Kasr-Safed in close proximity to it.⁸ Cunningham has also stated on the basis of the manuscript of Mukji, the bard of Khichi Chauhans that Qutbuddin, soon after his accession issued seven orders from Lal Kot.⁹ The earlier excavations, conducted by Y.D. Sharma from 1957 to 1961 at Lal Kot were mainly confined to the fortification, walls with a few structures pointing to housing activity.

According to Ibn Batuta, Sultan Iltutmish had set up two marble statues of lions on two towers at the gate of his palace and round their necks were two iron chains with huge bell which was meant for pulling by the oppressed person in the night to seek justice from the Sultan.¹⁰ This seems to be an old practice of the rulers of Delhi which had been initiated by Anang Pal II as mentioned by Amir Khusrau in the *Nuh Sipihr* or 'The Nine Heavens'.¹¹

While describing the revolt of Razia against her brother Rukn-ud-din, Ibn Batuta says, "One Friday, after Rukn-ud-din had gone to attend the prayers, Razia ascended the roof of the *daulatkhanā*, the old palace, which lay in the vicinity of the great congregational mosque; and she had then put on the garment of the oppressed. She presented herself to the army (*an-nās*) and addressed them from the roof."¹²

Minhajus-Siraj mentions the White Palace besides one Water Palace of Sultan Bahram Shah (A.D. 1241) where a Turkoman darwesh named Ayub lived for some time quietly.¹³ The Water Palace can be identified with the ruins located towards north-west of the main citadel complex under excavation. The Green Palace was equally important where according to Minhajus-Siraj in the year 1246 Nasiruddin Mahmud ascended the throne.¹⁴

The new city of Delhi was founded around Kilokhari by Kaikubad. Jalaluddin Khalji also established himself there and only after consolidating his position he came to the old city (within Qila Rai Pithora). The palaces like Kasr-Safed and Kushk-i-Lal were still

the centres of attraction. Coronations of rulers were often held at Kasr-Safed where according to Farishta, Jalaluddin Khalji sat on the throne and went to pay his respect to the Ruby Palace afterwards as it was constructed by Balban¹⁵ who had been his overlord. According to Barni during the last days of Kaikubad, one of the princes of very tender age was put to the throne under the title of Sultan Shamsuddin and he was taken to the Chabutra-i-Nasiri which became his court and there the nobles and greatmen attended upon him.¹⁶ As recorded by Barni, the palace where Sultan Jalaluddin Khalji alighted in the city when he went to the old city from Kilokhari was known as Daulat-Khana.¹⁷ This might have been a part of the Kasr-Safed or another edifice in its proximity.

In the same area of Lal Kot, says Barni, Alauddin Khalji took his seat upon the throne in the Daulat-Khana-i-Julus and proceeded to the Kushk-i-Lal where he took up his abode in 1296 A.D.¹⁸

Lal Kot can be divided into two parts, the western half which was the original citadel and the eastern half which was the extension of the citadel and enclosed by a fortification during Khalji rule when consideration was given to provide security to the existing mosque of Quwwatul Islam which itself was provided with magnificent gates and was enlarged by providing new enclosure. The Khalji extension of the mosque enclosed most of the monuments which form the Qutb Archaeological Area of the present day. The tomb of Iltutmish and the *madarsa* of Alauddin Khalji were located close to the western walls and extended screen of the mosque.

Towards south of the Chaumukha gate the extension parts of the fort wall of Lal Kot are buried under debris and it seems that during the time of the extension it was also decided to either provide the extension abutting the fort of Balban called Marzghan or to enclose it within the extension. After a gap, the buried walls of the extension become clearer towards north-west of Jamali-Kamali's mosque and tomb and towards west of Quli Khan's tomb. The fort wall extends towards west up to Adham Khan's tomb where it joins the original fortification wall of Lal Kot.

The entire Qutb Archaeological Area comes within the enlarged fortification of Lal Kot. The monuments of this area have been described in detail by a number of authorities and since the scope of the present work is limited to the original fort of Lal Kot, it seems unnecessary to go into details of the existing monuments beyond the original citadel fortification but within the extended part of Lal Kot.

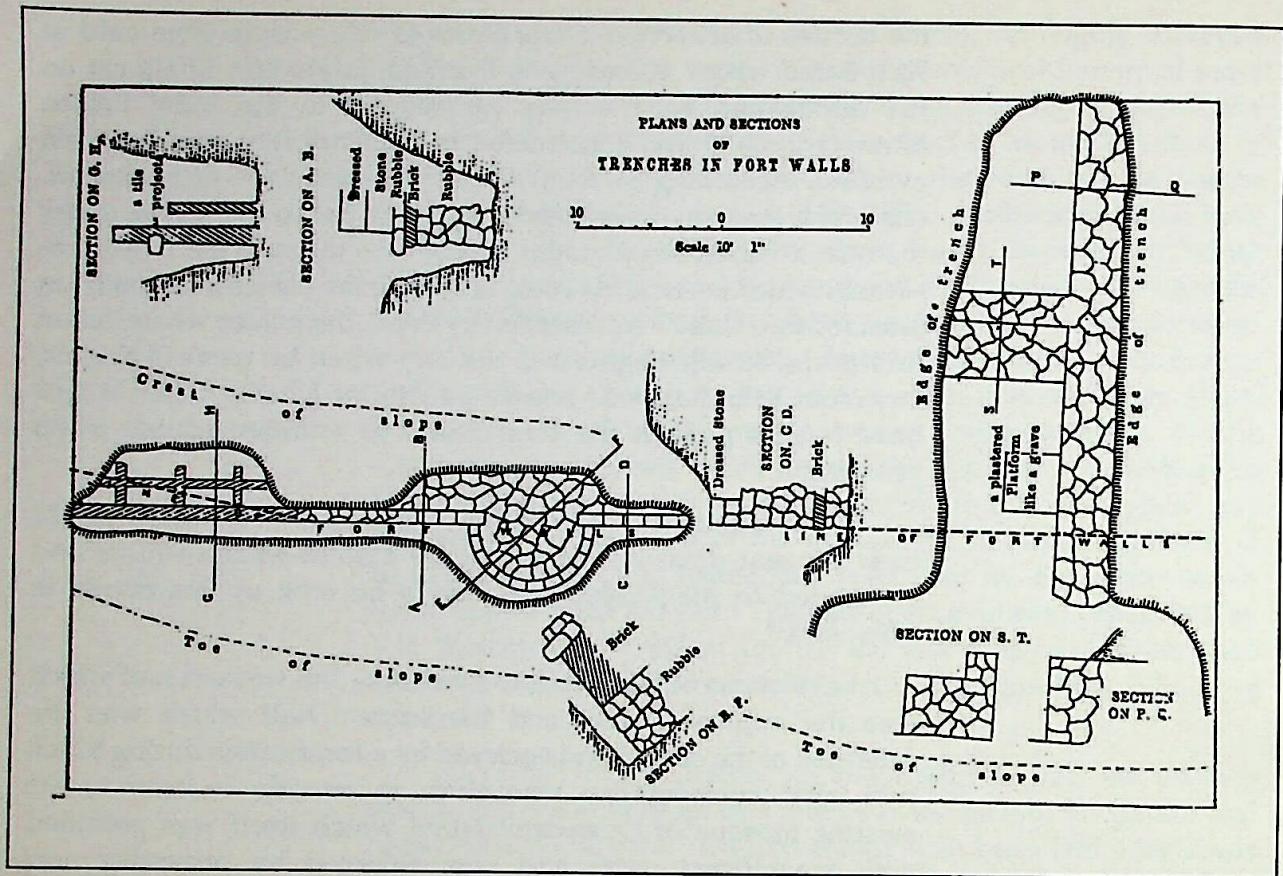


Fig.13. Plans and section of trenches in fort walls (Lal Kot)

The iron-pillar in the courtyard of Quwwatul Islam mosque is the earliest existing monument in the area. Its original place of erection is controversial which is mentioned as *Viṣṇupadagiri* in the six-line inscription in Gupta *Brāhma* script on it. The inscription describes the conquests of king Chandra on Bactrians after crossing the seven mouths of Indus in west, up to southern seas and Bengal in the east. Most of the scholars believe that king Chandra was nobody else but Chandragupta II Vikramāditya of the Gupta dynasty.

The pillar contains minor inscriptions of succeeding periods of Indian history up to late medieval times. Major General Sir Alexander Cunningham had noticed¹⁹ a small inscription of *Anāṅgapāla* and deciphered it as follows—

“*Samvat Dihali 1109 Ang Pāl bahi*” which is translated by him as “In Samvat 1109, or A.D. 1052, Ang (or Anang) Pāl peopled Dilli.” This statement, according to him, “is borne out by the testimony of the Kumaon and Garhwal manuscripts, in which opposite the name of *Anek Pāl*, I find recorded that in Samvat 1117, or A.D. 1060, on the 10th of *Mārgasīras Sudi* “he built the fort of Dilli and called it “*Lal Kot*” (*Dilli ka kot Karāya, Lālkot kahāya*).”²⁰

But the inscription (Pl. 12) was restudied by me and I could read it as follows—

“*Samvat Kinilli 1109 Arīgapāla bādi*” which means that Anāṅgāpāla tightened the nail (iron pillar) in Samvat 1109 or A.D. 1052. Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni has read it as-

“Sammat Dhilli 1109 Amgapala vadi.”²¹

But he was also wrong in his reading of the second word as “Dhilli” which is definitely “Kinilli” and which makes a sense to the last word ‘bādi’ which means tightened.

In this connection ‘Story of the loose pillar’ (*Killi-dhilli Kathā*) mentioned by a number of authorities becomes very relevant as it gives the inscriptional evidence of the incident. The story is mentioned with slightly different versions by various writers and has been recorded by Alexander Cunningham himself.²²

J.D. Beglar has called the eastern half of Lal Kot (Figs. 12, 13) as the ‘eastern branch’ which “goes eastwards, and round to south after a long detour, crossing the present Delhi road and the road to Tughlaqabad, and then disappears: after a gap of about 500 yards, a line of walls is again seen going in a north-west direction till it meets Adham Khan’s Tomb.”²³ He has considered the dividing line of original Lal Kot with its eastern extension, which is according to him the remains of the attempted enlargement by Alauddin Khalji, as the direct line of walls from the bifurcation near Sohan gate. He has differed in his opinion from Cunningham who considered the direct line as merely a dividing wall separating the fort, or Lal Kot, into two portions as a precaution against surprise attack and not as the wall of the fort. Both the archaeologists seem to be partly correct in their presumptions as after the recent excavations it was found that there is no direct wall of the original Lal Kot from Sohan gate towards its south but there are the remains of citadel over which palace complexes were erected up to a length of about 340 m in north-south orientation touching the side of Anang Tal and further depression on its south up to Jogmaya temple. In the earlier excavations conducted by Y.D. Sharma near Adham Khan’s Tomb it was noticed that the original fort wall runs towards north of Adam Khan’s Tomb and in between Adham Khan’s Tomb and Jogmaya temple a depression with structural remains of a gate has also been noticed which can be identified with the Bhind gate of original Lal Kot. Thus it seems that towards south of the citadel the original fortification continued up to Adham Khan’s Tomb where it met the southern wall of the original Lal Kot and to its west there existed another gate of the fort.

In support of his hypothesis Beglar has given 22 points showing the difference of construction in original walls of Lal Kot and in the eastern branch walls or its eastern extension. He has also given proportion of lime in mortars taken from different localities as

ascertained by analysis which shows that the proportion of unvitrified earth in comparison with soluble matter and lime at lower courses of the walls of Sohan gate is 97 : 3 grs while from a portion of east branch walls the proportion of vitrified earth in comparison with lime is 70 : 30 grs.

It seems that the palaces like Kushk-i-Lal (Ruby Palace) and Kushk-Sabz (Green Palace) were located outside the original Lal Kot and therefore when Alauddin Khalji provided its eastern extension it enclosed these palaces along with the great mosque. Beglar has quoted Farishta²⁴ who has given the details of Haji Maula's conspiracy which was subdued by Malik Hamid, the foster brother of Alauddin Khalji who entered the old city from Ghazni gate and crossed through Bhind gate where he killed Haji Maula. Later he went to Ruby Palace and slew Shah Nuni Alai. This shows that a person coming from north-west had to enter in Lal Kot at Ghazni gate and while going towards the great mosque he had to cross the Bhind gate of Lal Kot. Ruby Palace as well as the Green Palace were outside Bhind gate in the vicinity of the great mosque.

Beglar had noticed several basket-loads of green enamelled tiles with Arabic inscriptions and ornaments and the corner and portions of a floor of a large well plastered structure during his excavations at the back of the Quwwatul Islam mosque and therefore identified the excavated remains with those of the Green Palace. Beglar has also referred to²⁵ Minhaju Siraj in stating that the great mosque stood outside the original fort of Lal Kot or Nur during the reign of Sultan Muizuddin Bahram Shah when followers of Khwaja Mahzab created disturbance in the city and the mosque. On the basis of Farishta, Beglar has rightly stated²⁶ that after the retreat of Mongol invaders Kutlugh Khan and later Turghai Khan Alauddin Khalji constructed a palace and directed the citadel of old Delhi or Lal Kot to be pulled down and built anew. Thus, it is clear that being a great general he could foresee the importance of strategic position of the elevated land of the existing citadel along with the eastern part abutting the citadel which was not fortified and which he wished to enclose within the new fortification, also for the protection of new palaces and the great mosque.

Excavations

Excavations at Lal Kot and Anang Tal (Pls. 10, 11), were taken up in February, 1992 and continued for four seasons (1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95) under the direction of the author by the Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India with the view to locate the citadel area and to study the layout and settlement pattern of the palaces and other allied structures of the citadel along with the study of its association with Rajput period if any and to confirm the literary evidence about the location and shifting of the royal seat

in Delhi. Another objective was to confirm the structural conception of the huge depression on the eastern side of the mound, known as Anang Tal, believed to have been constructed by Anang Pal, the Tomar ruler. It has been said that water for making mortar for the construction of Alai Minar was brought in the time of Alauddin Khalji (A.D. 1269 to 1316) from adjoining Anang Tal.²⁷ The citadel area must have been at a distance from the temple-mosque complex, preferably at a higher level of strategic importance with better water facility. Such suitable spot of the citadel in the fort of Lal Kot could be searched only at the massive main mound having large structural complex of rubble stones abutting the Anang Tal on its western side. The main mound at the citadel site of Lal Kot towards west of Anang Tal has been LKT-1 where excavation trenches (Pls. 60-65) in the form of 10 x 10 m squares divided by quadrants were laid and excavations have been done in 114 quadrants of 39 squares including 2 quadrants at the western mound called LKT-2 (Pl. 79). Maximum length of the mound is about 340 m in north-south orientation and maximum width is about 100 m in east-west orientation. The measurements of the adjoining Anang Tal given by Cunningham are 159 feet long from north to south and 152 feet broad from east to west with a depth of 40 feet.²⁸ During the excavations it was noticed that debris of the adjoining damaged structures has fallen from all the sides in the tank and hence it is not possible to take accurate measurements of the tank unless the structures are properly exposed. The tank does not seem to be perfectly square in shape and the length and width of it is less than what is calculated by Cunningham. The existing depth of tank is about 14 m from the adjoining ground level (the bottom level being 231 m above sea level). Excavations in the northern side were done up to the depth of 4.85 m (below the existing level of 231 m above the MSL) and it was found that the actual depth in the central part must be even more than this. Because of the close proximity and the probable association of the Anang Tal with the mound, the area was covered under LKT-1 and accordingly trenches were laid out in grid fashion (Fig. 14).

Field training in excavation technique was also imparted at Lal Kot to the students of the Institute of Archaeology for three months in the third season.

A study of the excavated remains revealed a sequence of two cultural periods:

Period I : Rajput period (middle of the eleventh century to the end of the twelfth century A.D.).

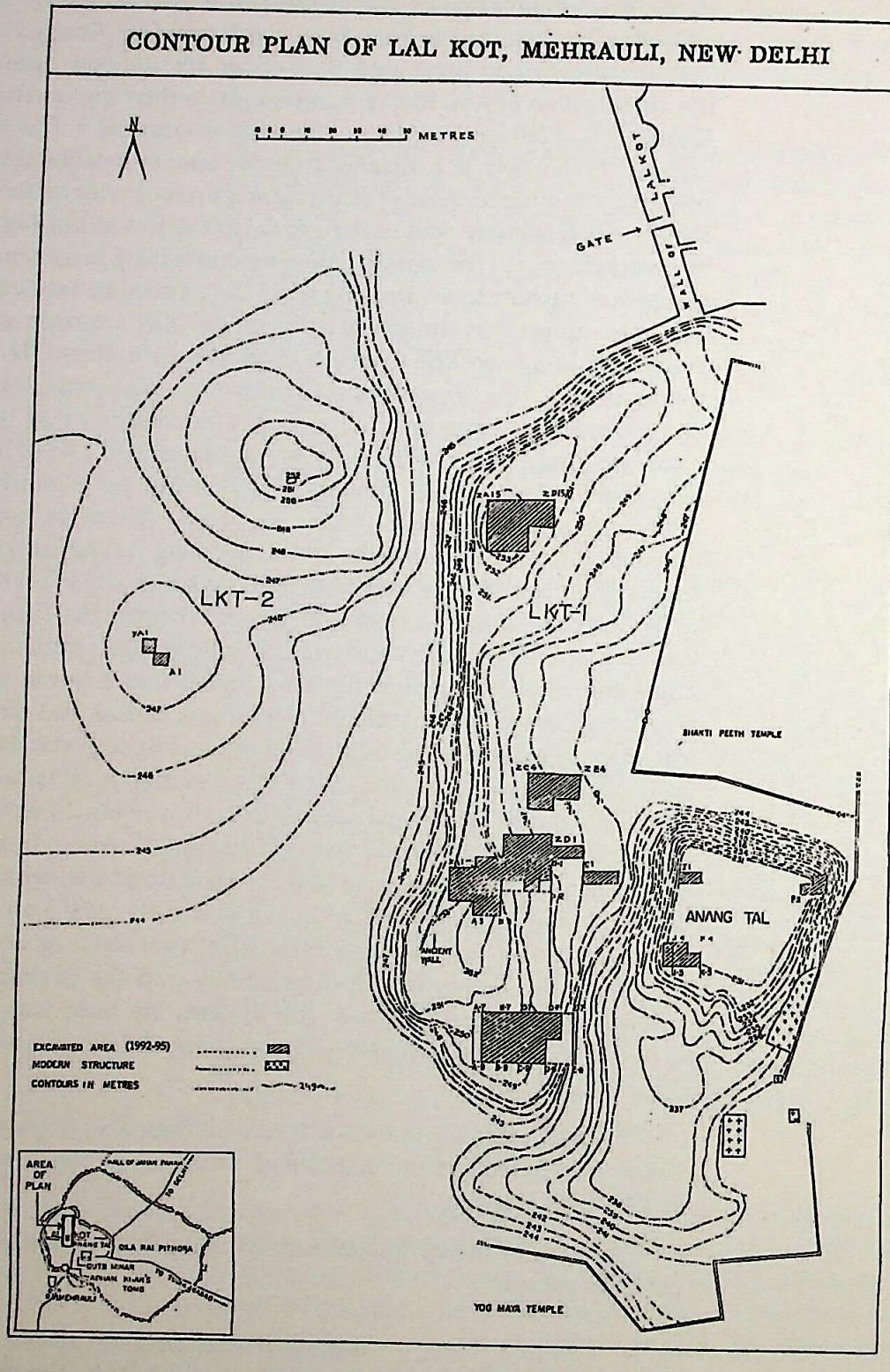


Fig.14. Contour plan of Lal Kot



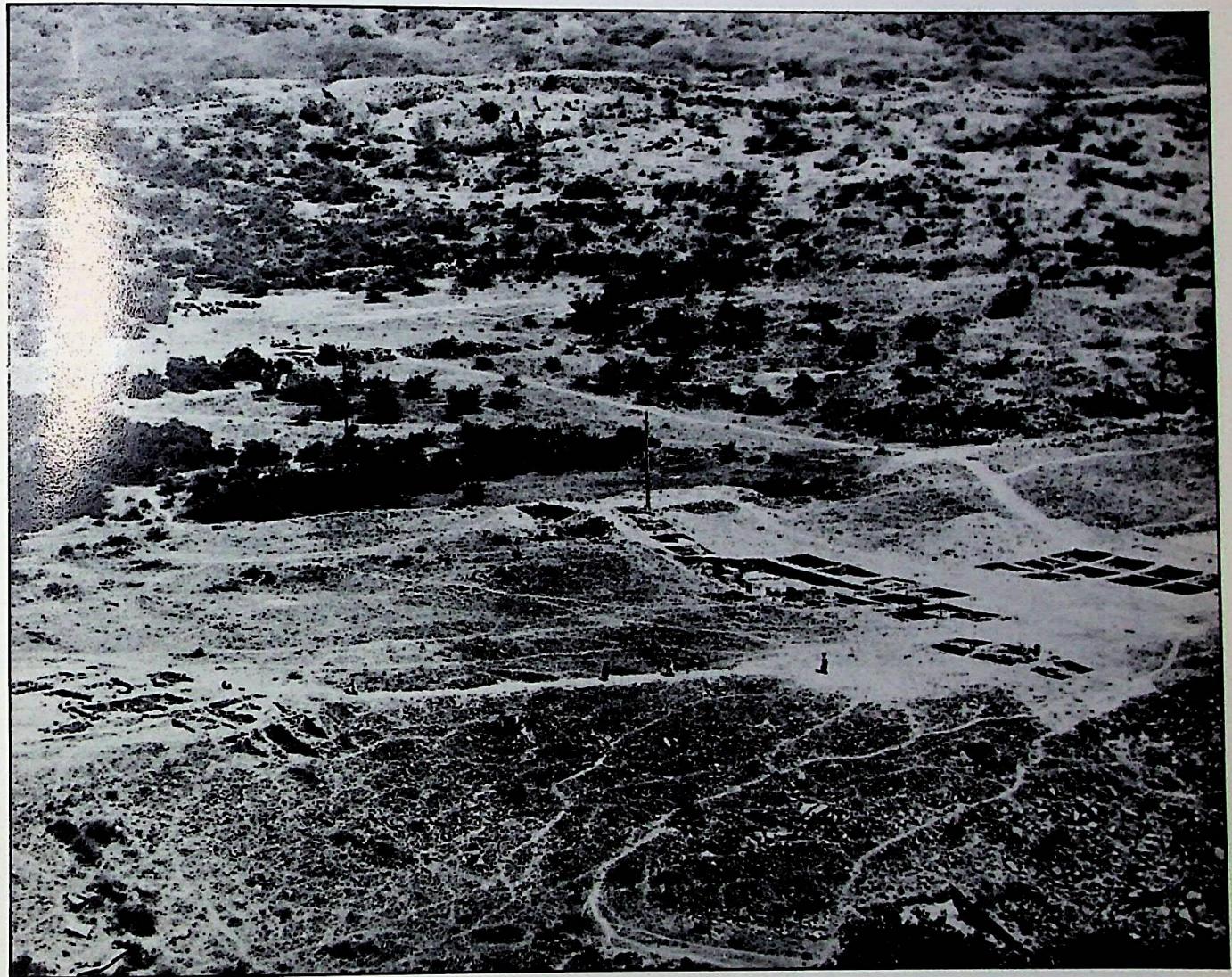
PL 57. Purana Qila 1969-70: Rubble fortification wall, Rajput period.



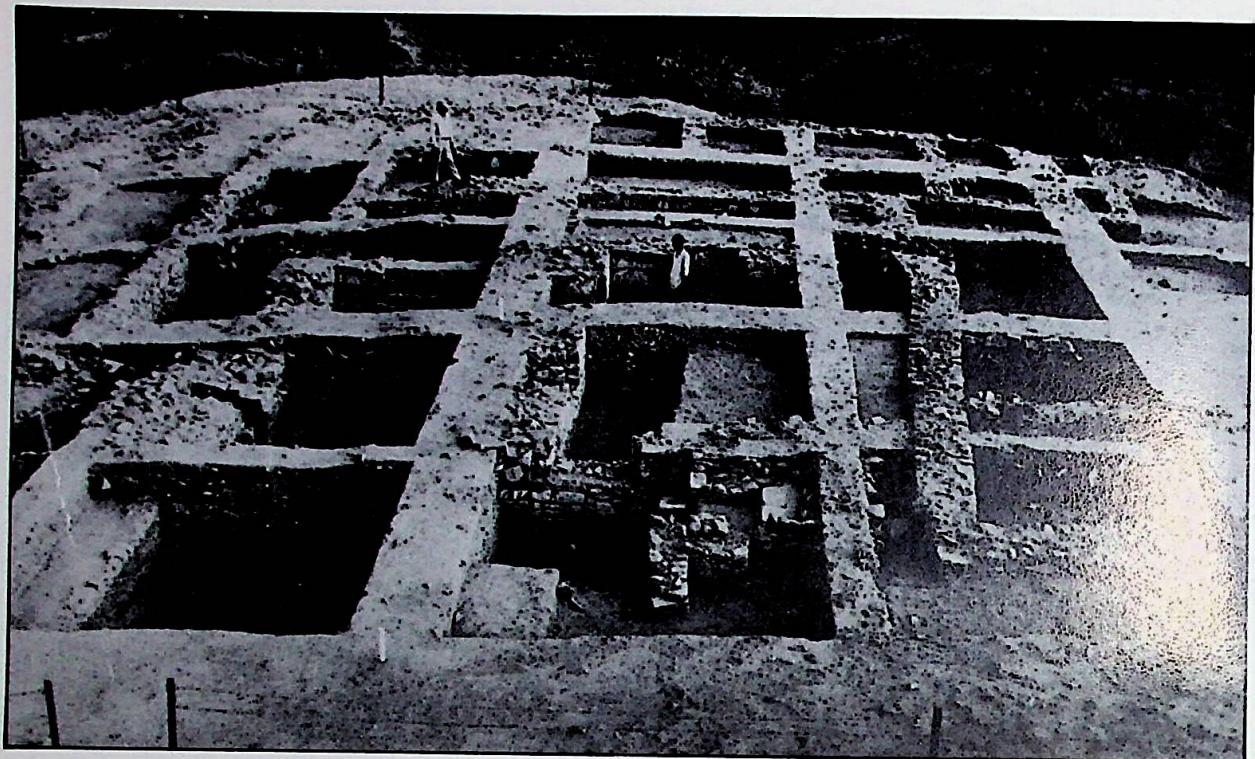
PL. 58. Purana Qila 1969-70: The so-called terracotta human figurines from Rajput period.



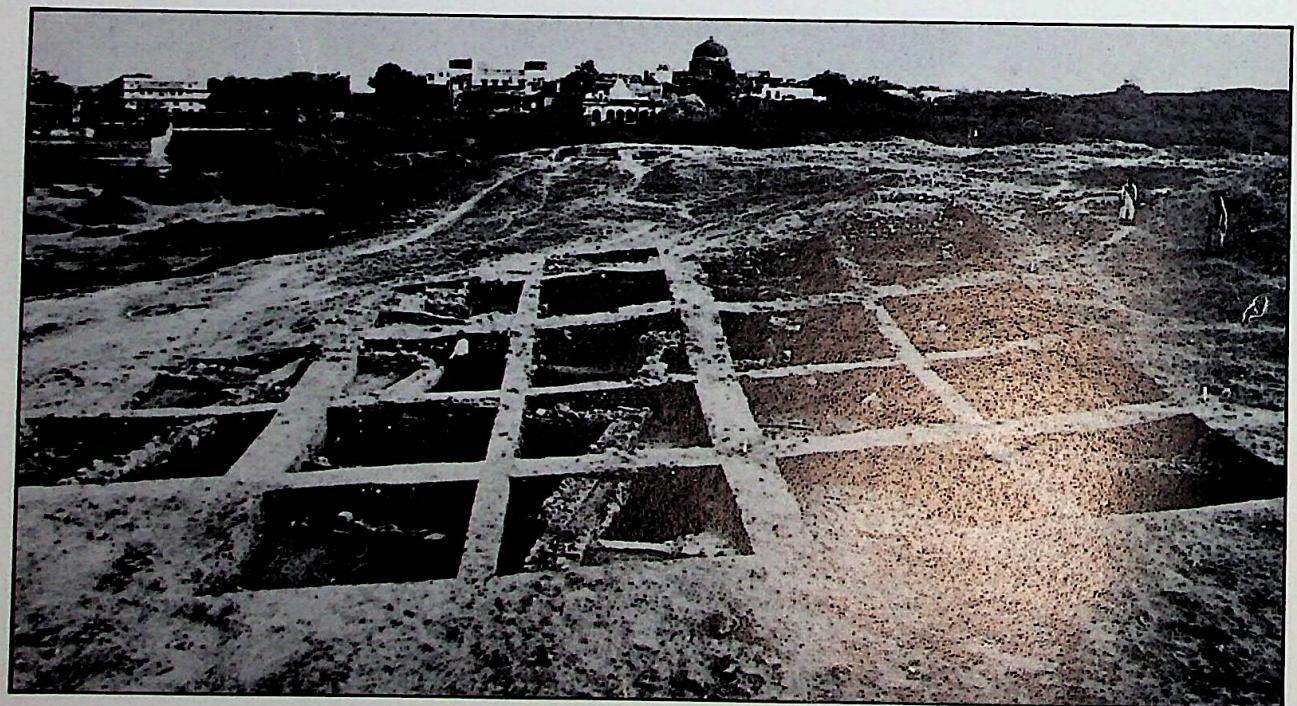
Pl. 59. Purana Qila 1969-70: Chinese porcelain, Mughal period.



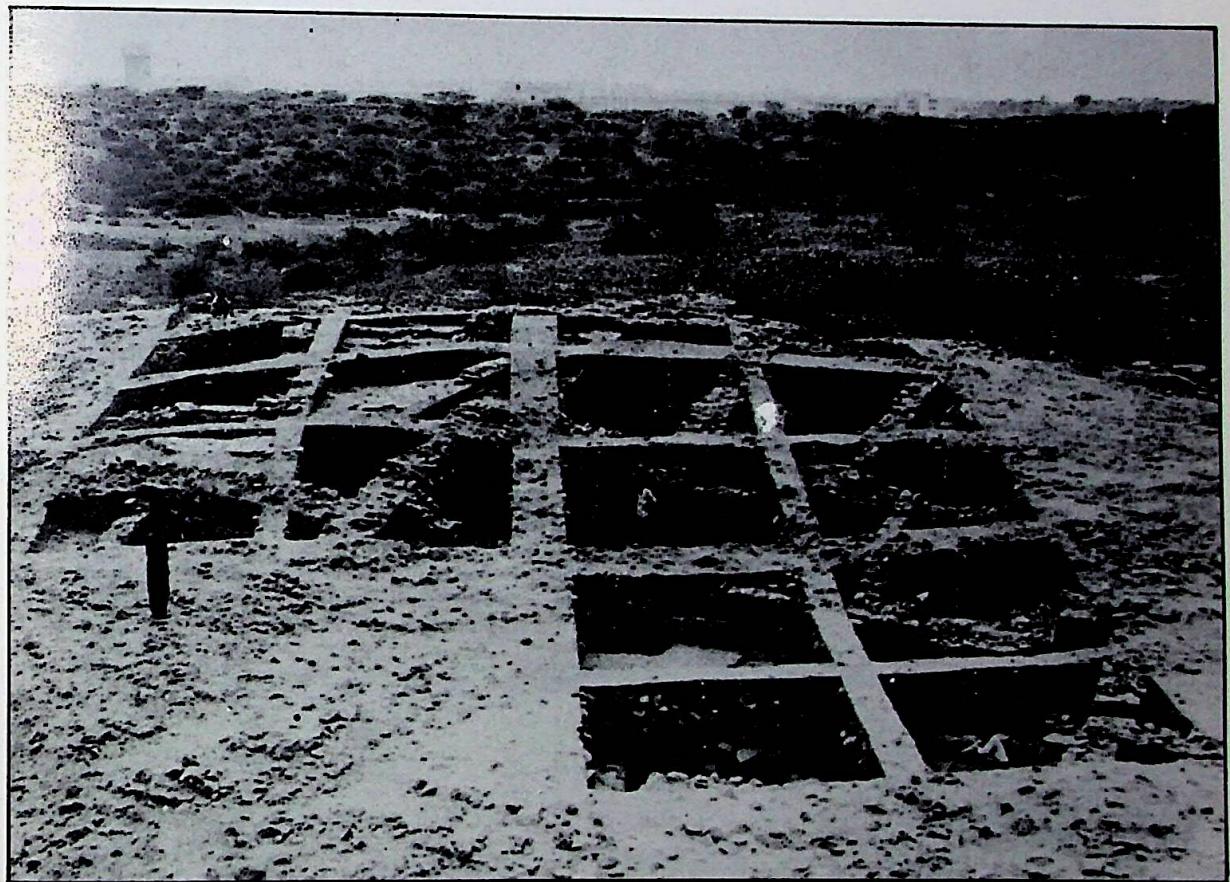
Pl. 60. Lal Kot 1993-94: General view of the excavations.



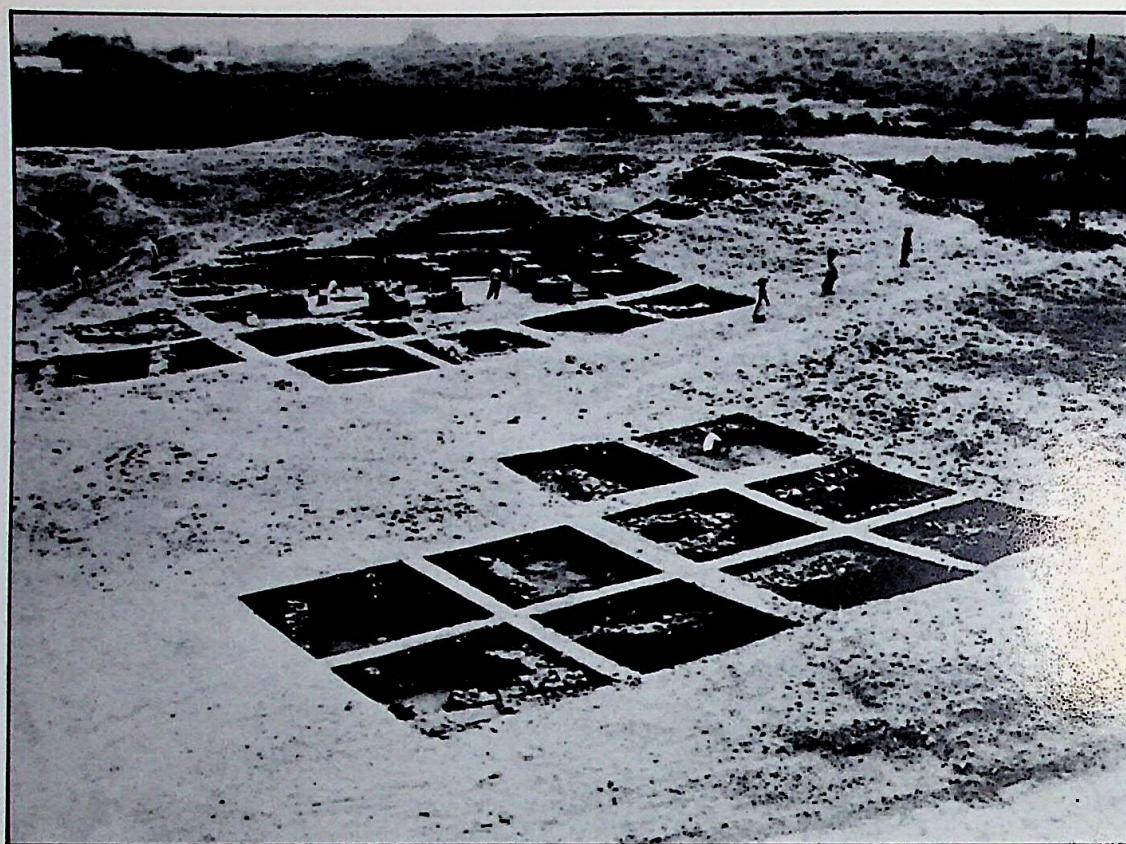
Pl. 61. Lal Kot 1991-92: General view of trenches.



Pl. 62. Lal Kot 1992-93: General view of trenches.



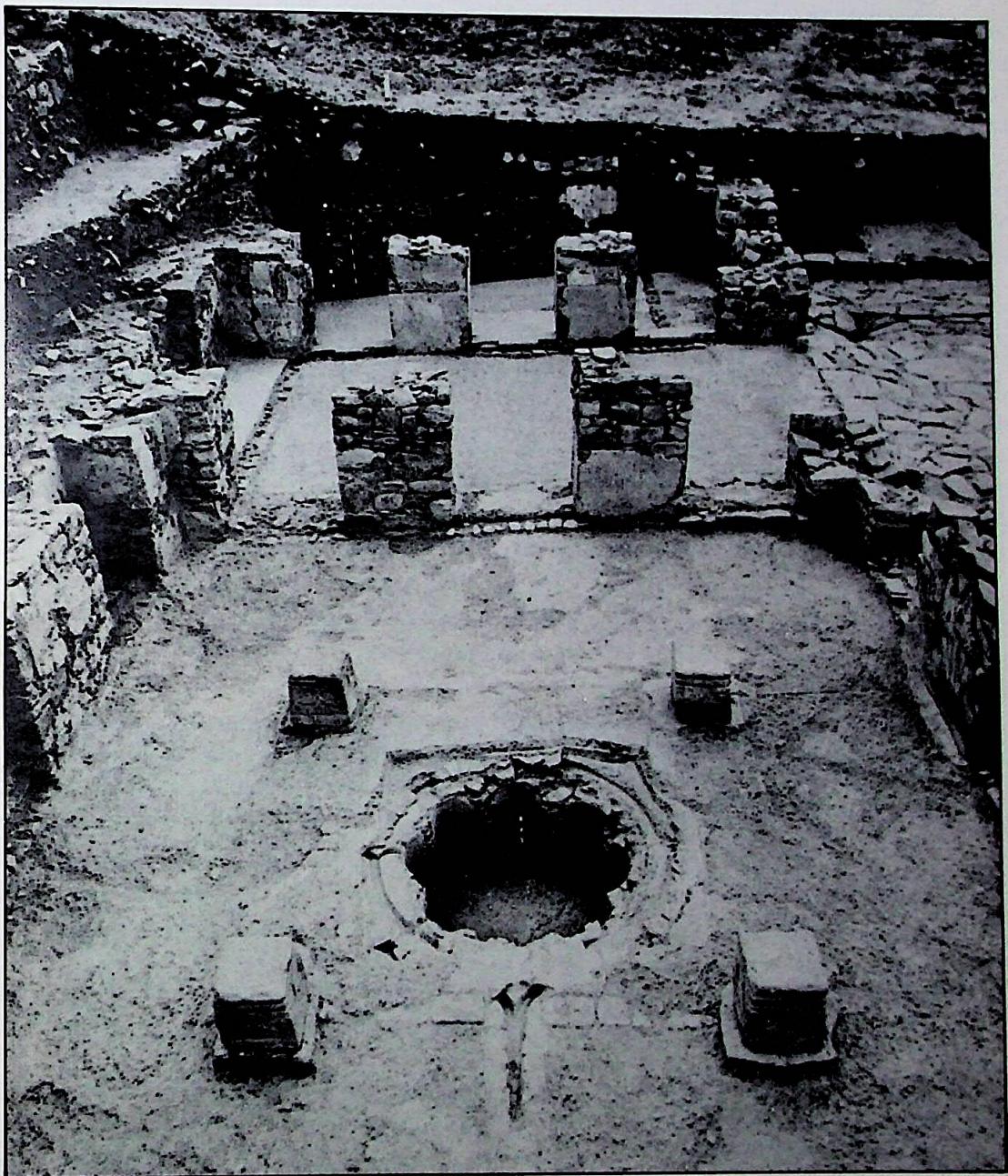
Pl. 63. Lal Kot 1993-94: General view of trenches.



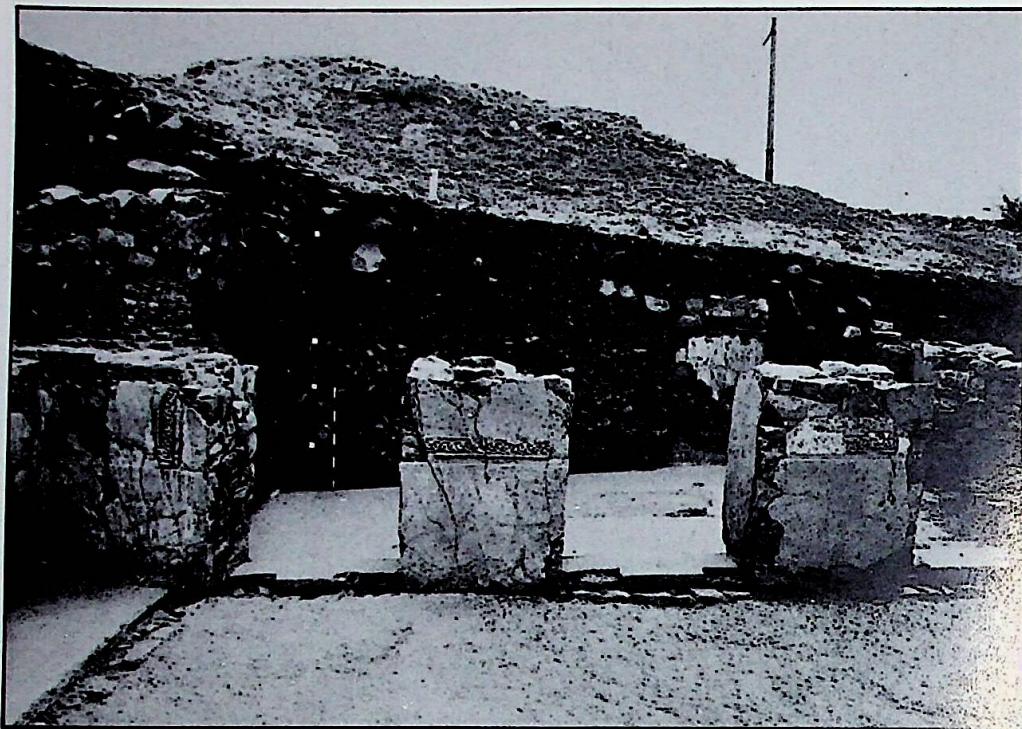
Pl. 64. Lal Kot 1993-94: General view of trenches.



Pl. 65. Lal Kot 1993-94: Pottery-yard.



Pl. 66. Lal Kot 1991-95: Early Sultanate palace.



Pl. 67. Lal Kot 1992-93: Early Sultanate palace, entrance to room-2.



Pl. 68. Lal Kot 1992-93: Early Sultanate palace, decorated lime plaster.

Period II : Early Sultanate period (end of the twelfth century to the end of the 14th century A.D.).

Rajputs and early Turks had their palaces constructed in Lal Kot in between eleventh and thirteenth centuries A.D., the structural remains of some of them have been exposed during four seasons' work, although their precise identifications have yet to be made. Structures of Rajput period have been encountered, but because of the large scale building activities of different phases of early Sultanate period the area for excavations in Rajput levels was found very limited and hence definite plans of Rajput buildings could not be traced out.

So far, no palace site was identified accurately within Lal Kot and the earliest known palace complexes of the early Sultans of Delhi have been identified at Adilabad, Tughlaqabad and Feroz Shah Kotla which all belong to the Tughlaq period. Excavations at Lal Kot have brought to light parts of earliest palace-complexes of Turks for the first time which are more than hundred years earlier than the known palaces of Tughlaqs. The constructional style of the palaces suggests that they were not very large but constructed in groups.

The Period I has been divided into three structural phases. The Period II has been divided into four structural phases—the earliest two representing palatial structures and the last two representing inferior and ordinary house complexes of late Khalji and Tughlaq periods. This confirms the fact that Turks had settled at Lal Kot in the beginning and shifted their capital to Siri, the second city of Delhi in 1303 when it was founded by Alauddin Khalji after which the citadel of Lal Kot was gradually abandoned in Tughlaq period.²⁹

Period I: The Rajput Period

(A) Structures: Excavations in lower levels were confined to limited areas of quadrants 1 of square C7, 2 and 3 of ZCI, 4 of ZC4, 1 and 2 of ZDI and 2 of EI due to massive structural activities of Period II. In these restricted areas, the early levels could be reached without much disturbing any structure. The natural bedrock was encountered in quadrant 1 of square C7 after cutting through 13 layers of habitational deposits of Period II and Period I up to the depth of 5 m (Fig. 15) but no structure was found. Similarly, the partially excavated portion in quadrant 2 of square E1 from layers 14 to 22 represents Period I, although no structure of this period was encountered except some mud floors. The natural rocky surface was found below layer 22 at the depth of 6.5 m below peg E1. In rest of the quadrants mentioned above, structures of Period I were found and three successive structural phases of Rajput period were noticed.

LALKOT 1991-92

LKT-1, SECTION FACING SOUTH

SQ C 7, Qd.-I

SCALE OF 1 0 1 METRES

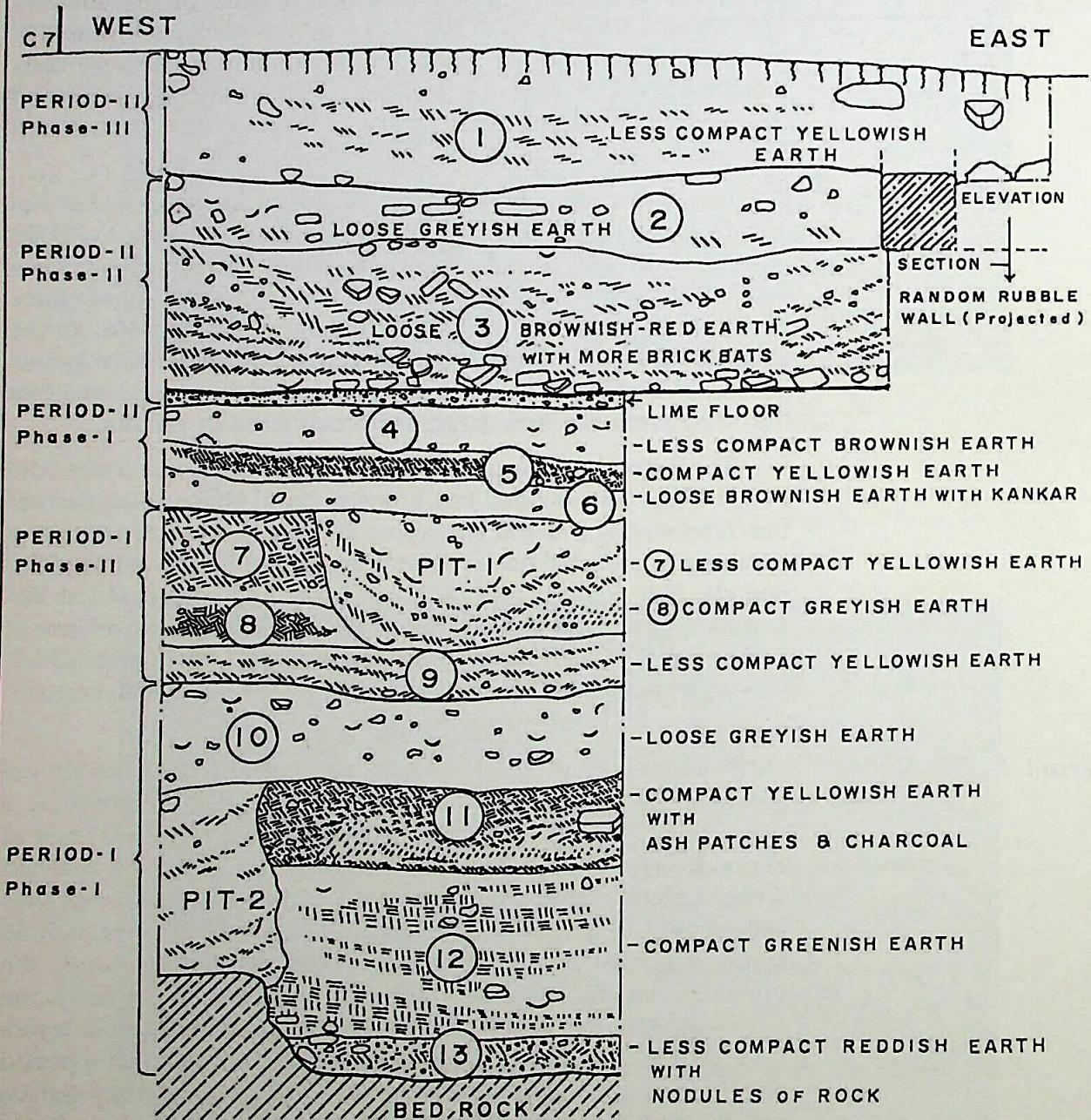


Fig.15. Lal Kot 1991-92: LKT-1. Section facing south

During the second season's work in quadrant 2 of ZCI, excavation continued up to layer 21 and three structural phases of Period 1 were found. Although the area was very much restricted at the depth of 6.5 m below peg ZCI when the work was stopped without reaching the natural soil or bedrock, but excavations were resumed there in the third season from layer 21 downward, and a random rubble wall, running north to south was encountered at the depth of 7.30 m below layer 22 (Fig. 16). Excavation was to be closed there as there was no further space for digging. This wall most probably belongs to the early Rajput phase. A few potsherds recovered from layer 23 could not give clear idea about the dating as they are common types of red ware of post-Gupta-Rajput period.

Phase I of Period I (Rajput period) is characterised by partly exposed 2.5 m long random rubble wall with medium sized stones set in mud mortar, running west to east and attached with the northern section of quadrant 2 of square ZCI and another wall, 50 cm thick and 1.0 m long running from southern section to north and joining the first wall at middle as a cross wall. These walls belong to a room.

Phase II of Period I is represented by a partially exposed 2.5 m long and 1 m high random rubble wall with medium sized stones, running west to east which is also attached with northern section of quadrant 2 of square ZCI about 30 cm above the wall of Phase I and two successive floor levels.

Phase III of Period I is characterised by the partly exposed two random rubble walls of medium sized stones, both 2.5 m long, 30 cm and 80 cm high running west to east and attached with the northern section of quadrant 2 of square ZCI. They rest one above the other and two floors of red *murrum* and mud respectively were encountered.

Excavation in the lower levels in a limited area in quadrants 1 and 2 of square ZDI continued from layer 5 downwards and closed at the depth of 7.25 m below peg ZDI. The last two phases of Period I were represented by two random rubble walls and layers 7 to 18.

Excavations were resumed in the fourth season in quadrants 2 and 3 of ZC1 where in the previous season excavations were limited up to the depth of 7.30 m in layer 23 in quadrant 2. Excavations continued up to the depth of 8.40 m below peg ZC1 and up to layer 29. For making enough space for excavations the main baulk between quadrants 2 and 3 was removed and some of the structures belonging to Period II were also removed after their complete documentation. In the deposits of Period I, a few floor levels were encountered which were either mud floors or mud

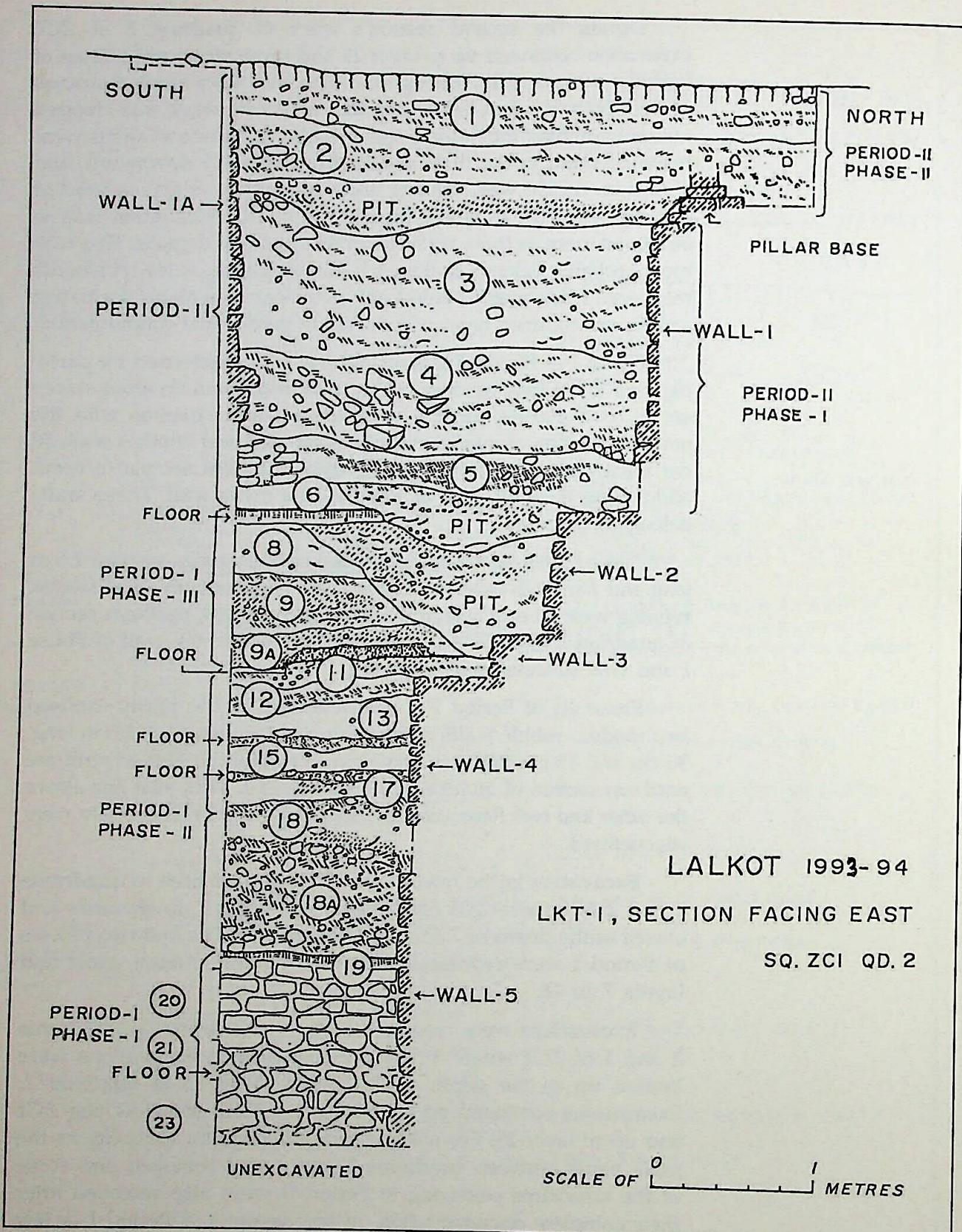


Fig.16. Lal Kot 1993-94: LKT-1. Section facing east

floors mixed with lime finish. Two plastered drains were also noticed. Part of a door of stone masonry having random rubbles arranged with mud mortar was noticed along with a floor which was sealed by layer 20.

During the third season, excavations in quadrant 4 of ZC4 were confined to the levels of Period II. This quadrant was also selected for deep digging and less important structures of Period II were removed after their careful recording to make a good space for deeper excavations which continued up to the depth of 6.30 m below peg ZC4 and sufficiently good results were obtained from the levels belonging to Period I. Parts of walls and floors as above were exposed. Evidences of relaying floors were also found, which were sealed by layer 12 A. Hearth with ash was noticed which was sealed by layer 17. At one spot remains of ochre painting were found over mud plaster on a wall.

(B) Pottery: Ceramic industry of Period I (Figs. 17, 18) is represented by large scale use of red ware, both plain as well as decorated. A few sherds of black slipped grey ware have also been found. By and large, the pottery was having medium to fine fabric and was well fired. Bowls were made of finer clay and other vessels made from the clay neither very fine nor coarse. Mica-dust was occasionally used as a grit-component in the case of medium sized vases. Another notable feature of this period was the treatment of painting in black colour on the rim or shoulder of the vases, lids and basins of the slipped pieces; most of them have evidence of the red slip only. Occasionally, they have chocolate slip. The black-slip was applied only on the grey ware. In some cases pinkish-whitewash was applied on the shoulder of the incised decorated vases. Decorations of three types have been found, i.e. incised, stamped and painted. The incised decorations are found only on the vases at the shoulder in the shapes of a group of wavy lines bordered by a pair of horizontal line or viceversa, zigzag lines, a pair of vertical lines in between the pair of opposite wavy lines and the whole is bordered by horizontal line. In some cases the designs were made over the pinkish-whitewashed surface. A few sherds have the decoration of the vertical or oblique lines on a horizontal rib at the lower part of the shoulder.

The painted decorations have been noticed on pots on the exterior at the shoulder and on rim, as well as on the interior in the case of lid in the shapes of a pair of strokes bordered by the horizontal line, zigzag lines, criss-cross design bordered by the horizontal line and a flower with full black leaves.

In the stamped decorations the chequer-pattern was more popular in this period. A few sherds have been found which were

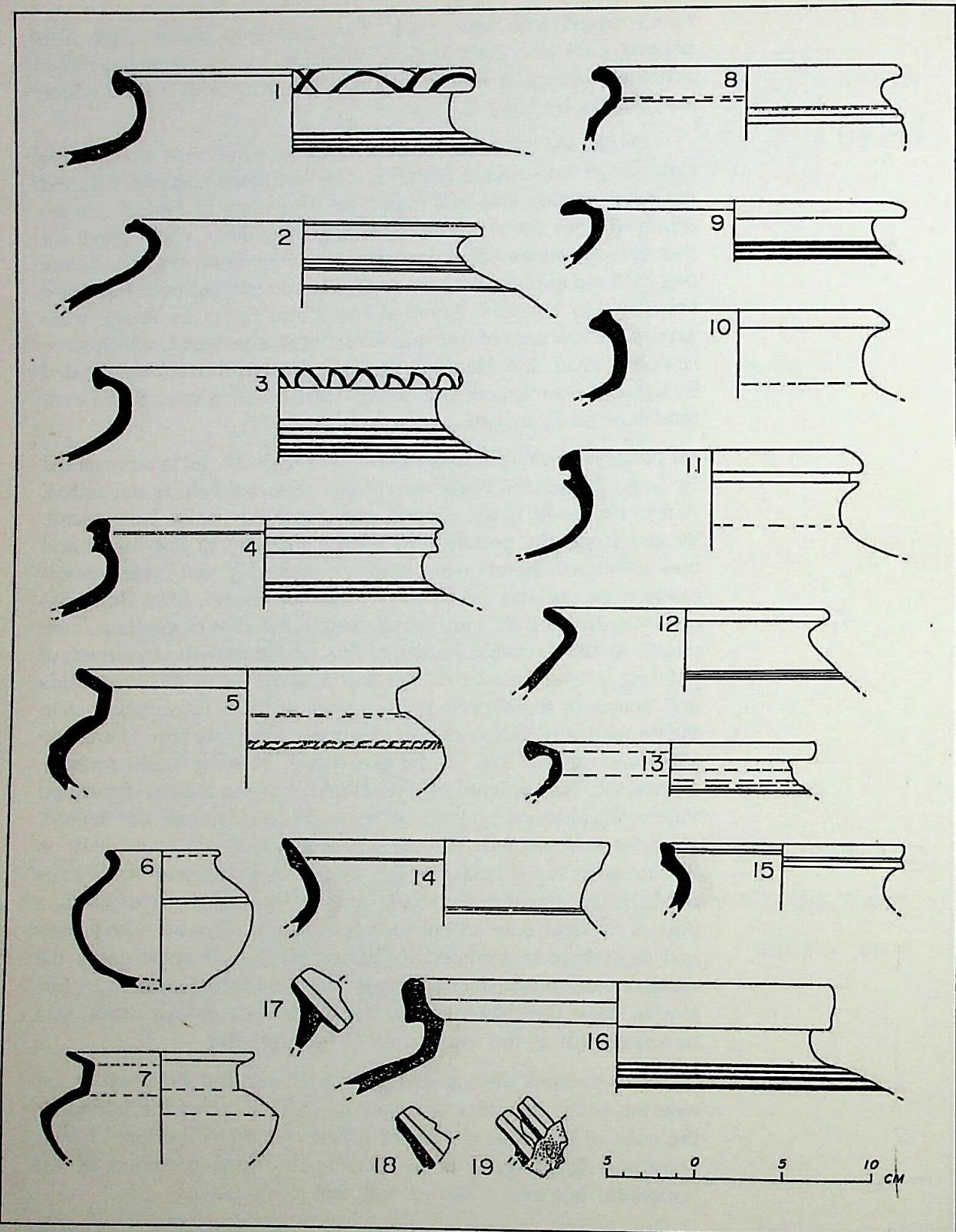


Fig.17. Lal Kot 1992-95: Plain and decorated red ware, Period I: 1-4, 9-16, vases; 5, 8, handis; 6, miniature vase; 7, miniature handi; 17-18, spouts and 19, double-mouthed spout.

decorated with the vertical lines of dots in between vertical lines in relief and a bowl was found decorated with the vertical lines of dots in circle on the exterior.

The pottery is found in the shapes of bowls, basins, lids, cooking *handis*, vases, miniature vases, lamps and spouted vessels.

Bowls were the most frequently used pottery of this period. Almost all of them have sharp-edged rim, tapering profile and disc base; in some cases disc is small and not so prominent. Sharp-edged medium sized bowls with 9 to 10.5 cm diameter are less in number in Phase II and Phase III where they are replaced with small sized bowls having diameter of 6 to 8 cm. A few sherds have vertical square-cut rim with or without grooving on the exterior below the rim. Two odd pieces of incurved rim bowls suggest the evidence of Kushan pottery tradition in this period.

Basins have nail-headed rim and convex or ledged profile, a few of them having been painted at the top of the rim. Amongst these a nail-headed basin additionally has a rib at the top of the rim and also painted with vertical strokes at the top of the rim and a horizontal line on the exterior of the convex body.

Amongst lids, there are two distinct types. One has inverted flat terminal top and the other has flared rim, convex profile and flat base. The latter one mostly has painting on the interior, particularly on the top of the rim and in a few cases on the centre. A notable feature of Phase III is the presence of incised potter's mark of the shape of a plus mark on two lids, one on the top of the flared rim ledged interior lid and the other on the interior of the body of the internally beaked rim lid.

The cooking *handis* are found with or without carination. In some cases the rib was applied at the lower part of the shoulder occasionally decorated with vertical or oblique incised lines. Short shoulder *handis* with ledged shoulder are also present. In some cases the lower part was treated with mud paste to prevent the soot and in other cases the lower part has the rough surface.

Vases have different types of rim, i.e. nail-headed rim, horizontally splayed out rim with or without depression on the exterior, internally oblique-cut rim, externally ledged rim etc. Most of the vases have decorations at shoulder and / or at rim. All the three types of decorations are found on the vases.

Miniature vases have the simple splayed out rim and the sagger base. Lamps are small and of short convex body and disc base.

The plain spouts recovered from the levels of Period I have shown the presence of spouted vessels of single as well as double

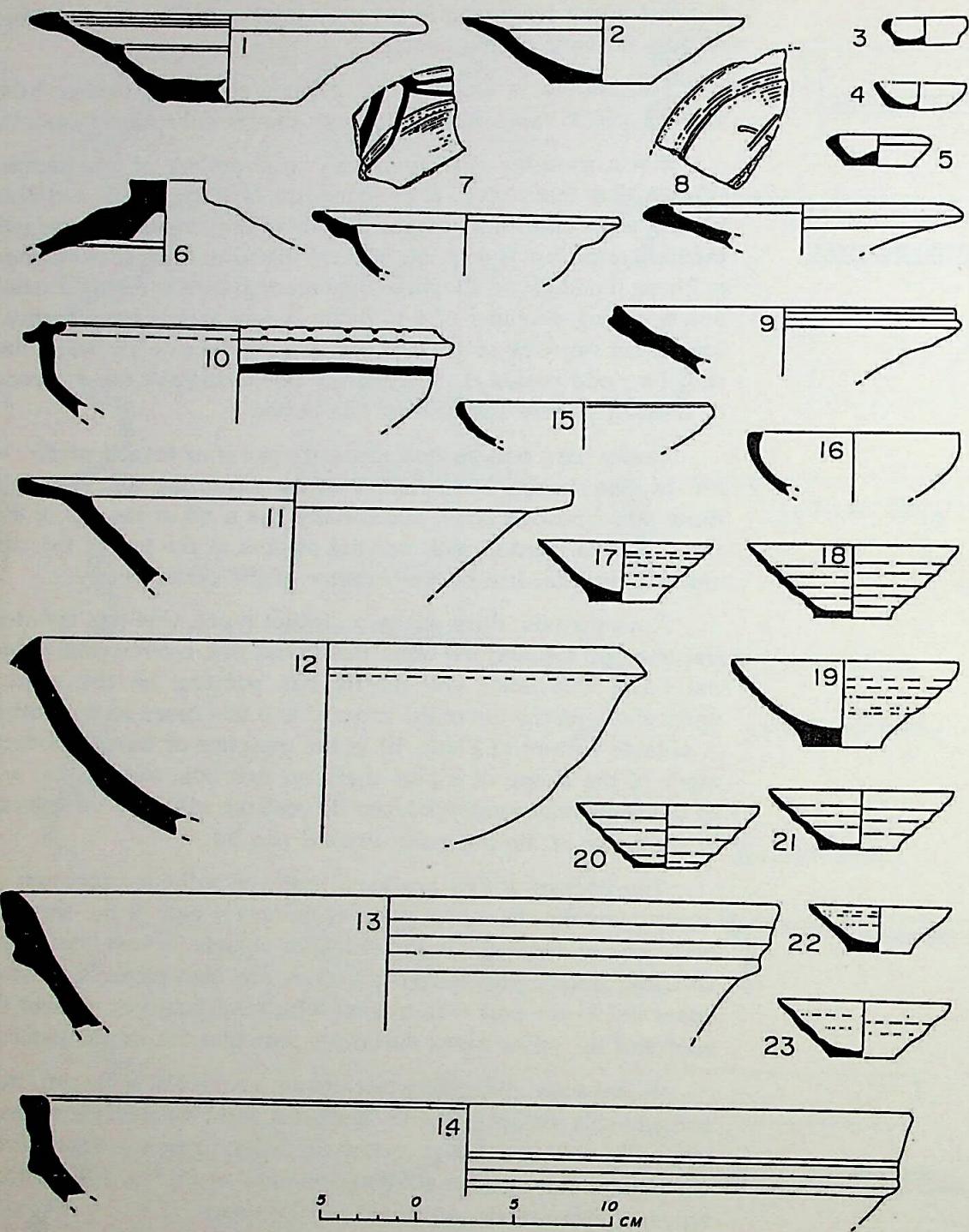


Fig.18. Lal Kot 1992-95: Plain and decorated red ware, Period I: 1-2, 6-9, lids; 3-5, lamps; 10-14, basins; 15-16, bowls and 17-23, sharp-edged bowls

mouths. Red ware circular discs or hopscotches have been found from different phases of the period.

Mention may be made here of single potsherd (Pl. 105) of red ware from layer 12 of quadrant 1 of square C7 (the natural bedrock of which lies below layer 13) which has inscribed *Brāhma* letters of Gupta period (c. A.D. 400) mentioning perhaps a name *V(i) ras (o) ma*. Only on the basis of a single sherd it is not possible at present to suggest a separate horizon of Gupta period at the site. An inscribed potsherd with *Nāgarī* letters on its both surfaces was an important find of Period I (Pls. 16, 17).

(C) Antiquities: Amongst the notable finds of Period I, mention should be made of the small rectangular sandstone sculpture of *Ganeśa* (Pl. 19) in low relief suggesting its use for personal worship and a lower half fragment of terracotta mould (Pl. 84, 85) for casting Jaina Tirthākara figure flanked by two attendants wearing different ornaments and clothes, both found from Phase III of the period. Other noteworthy antiquity is a copper coin from Phase III having *Nāgarī* legend of twelfth century A.D. *Dev(i)* on obverse and a crude representation of a fire altar on the reverse. The coin is similar to the coins of Chauhan queen Somaladevī of Shakambhari. Other important antiquities include four copper coins of horseman-and-bull type; a copper ring; iron arrow-head; beads of terracotta, glass and semi-precious stones; bangle pieces of glass, ivory and bone; finger ring pieces of copper and semi-precious stones like quarts, lapis lazuli and a few pieces of terracotta animal figurines including a small animal, a pair of horns and parts of legs.

Some of the terracotta human figurines (Pls. 91, 92), particularly a standing female figure in *anjali* pose, which are found in the levels of Period II may belong to Period I. The typical handmade bearded soldiers in terracotta, reported from the Rajput levels at Purana Qila excavations³⁰ have not at all been found in the Rajput levels at Lal Kot and have been noticed in large numbers in different levels of Period II only.

A number of sculptural (Pl. 87) and architectural fragments in stone of Rajput period have been noticed scattered on the surface or found in the levels of Period II, either in the deposits or reused in construction of early Sultanate structures. They include a *Varāha* head (Pl. 86); *āmalakas*; *adhiṣṭhāna* mouldings; pillar bases; parts of sculptured door jambs, one with *mithuna* figures (Pl. 89); moulded and decorated architectural fragments; small sculptures showing *Tirthākara*, deities, vase etc.; *Nandi* figure and a lion's head (Pl. 88) which can be connected with the story of stone lion figures at the gate of the palaces of Anang Pal II and Iltutmish. The evidence of stone *Nandi* (Pl. 18) suggests for the first time the existence of a *Śiva* temple in the vicinity.

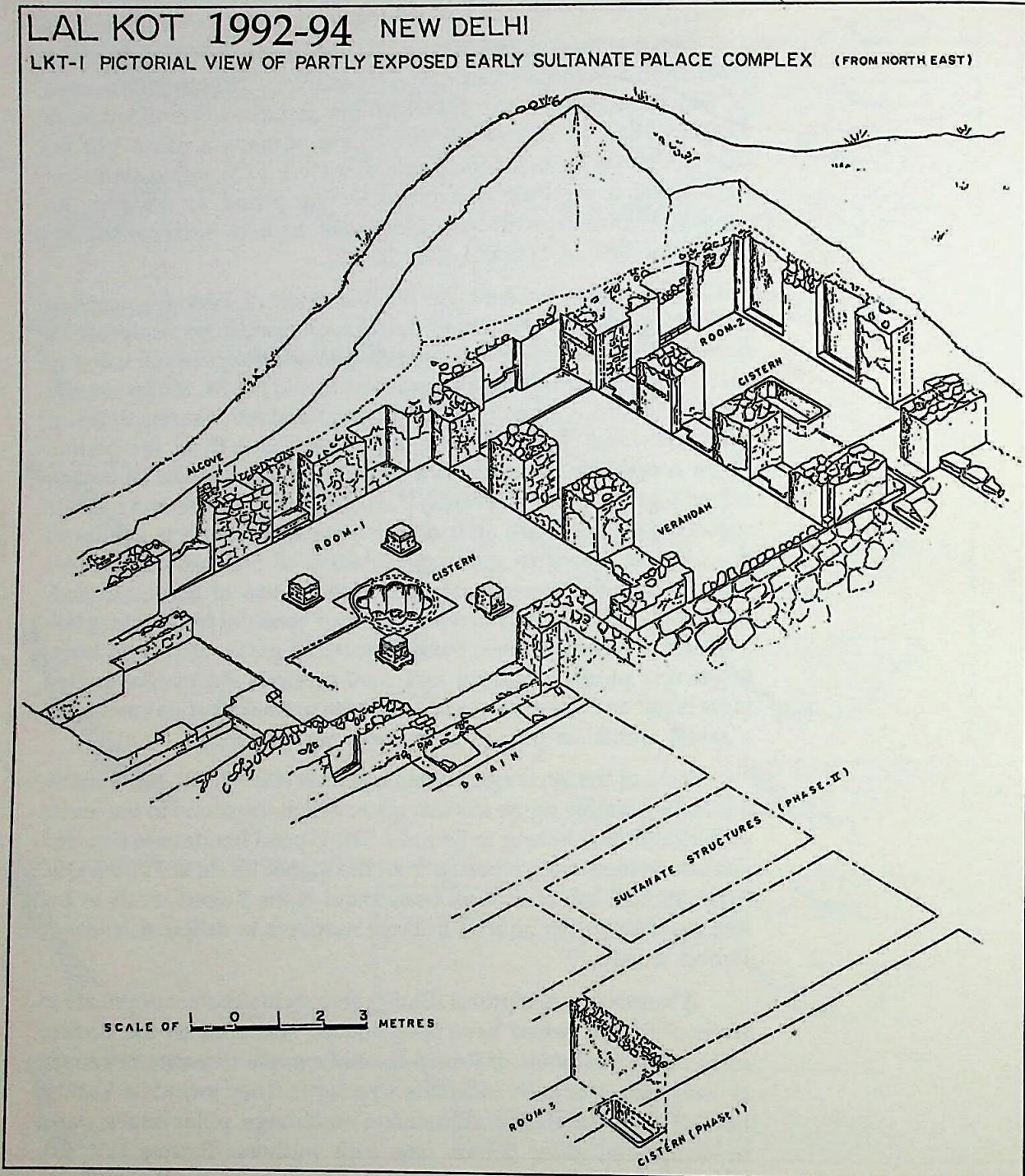


Fig.19. Lal Kot 1992-94: LKT-1. Pictorial view of partly exposed early Sultanate palace complex

Other important antiquities include a terracotta Ganesa figurine, a terracotta composite lamp, two terracotta stick stands, rotating wheel with two holes, handled incense burner, arecanut beads and hopscotches.

Period II: The Early Sultanate Period

(A) Structures: The early Sultanate period is represented by four structural phases.

Phase I, Sub-Phase IA: The important structures of this sub-phase revealed at LKT-I seem to be the parts of an early Sultanate palace complex having three rooms, each ornamented with a water cistern in the centre, a verandah between room-1 and room-2 (Pl. 66) with decorative lime plaster and parts of the drains (Figs. 19, 20). About 140 m far from it in the northern direction another room, also ornamented with a water cistern, is revealed in square ZB15. Partly exposed small lime plastered water tanks and lime floor revealed in square C7 also belong to this sub-phase.

The room-1 of size 7.30 x 6 m is ornamented with a 0.72 m deep magnificent eight lotus petal designed circular water cistern with a diameter of 1.40 m, encircled by double drainage finished with fine lime plaster and covered by a 5 cm raised square in the centre of the room. The drain joins the cistern in the east and then turns towards north. In this sub-phase the drains were probably open and water fell into the cistern through each petal of the lotus shape. In the succeeding phases the drainage was covered with stone chips and a fresh lime floor was provided over them. On the outside of the raised square the pillars were fixed on the four corners of the square (Pl. 69). Only pillar bases of Rajput style have been unearthed. These pillar bases rest on the stone pedestals and are 2.90 m apart from each other. They might have supported some wooden canopy. They also resemble reused pillar bases found in a very large quantity at Quwwatul Islam mosque and Sultan Ghari's tomb and were quite seemingly works of the transitional period of Rajput-Mamluk phase when traditional Indian architecture had not seen much change at least till the time of Iltutmish whose coins have been found from the working level of these structures. This room has three openings, 1.05 m wide in the west to a one side closed verandah and probably three openings to the north in which west one is clear, second one is partly clear and third one is not traceable due to ghost part of the wall and the southern wall of the room has three large niches which seem to have originally corresponded to the three openings in front of them in the northern wall.

The original arrangement in the east was changed due to later structural activities probably in Phase II. The small intermediary alcoves were provided at the height of about 1.25 m probably in a series in between the niches and doors of room-1, verandah and room-2 in which the remains of three lime plastered alcoves made of brick masonry have been revealed at the southern wall of room-1, verandah and room-2.

LALKOT 1992-94

LKT-I, EXPOSED PLAN OF SULTANATE COMPLEX AND EARLY REMAINS

SULTANATE STRUCTURES 

RAJPUT STRUCTURES 

SCALE OF 1 0 1 2 3 METRES

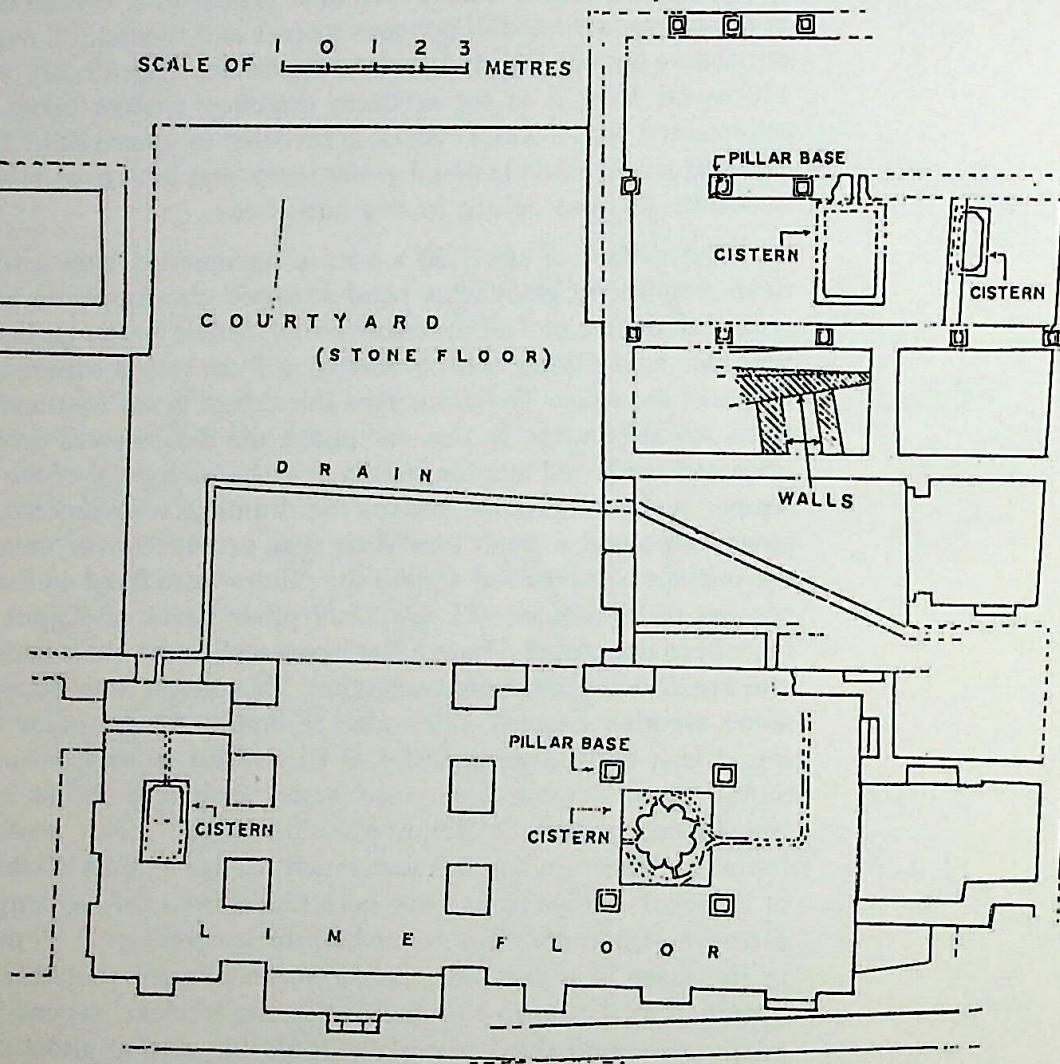


Fig.20. Lal Kot 1992-94: LKT-1.
Exposed plan of Sultanate complex and early remains

The verandah (Pl. 71) of size 6.50×3.50 m is fully opened in the north probably to a courtyard and attached with room-1 in the east and room-2 in the west with three openings of 1.05 m wide on each side. In south it has a slightly raised fine lime floor of about 0.85 m in width and a large niche. The lime plastered walls of the verandah were provided with raised decorative bands of lime plaster of about 1 to 1.5 cm thickness and 11 to 13 cm in width just over the 0.75 m high slightly thick lime plastered dado with a gap of about 5 cm and bordered along upper half of the doors and probably also along the niches and alcoves. The bands are

decorated with undercut design of a climber with ornamented flowers and leaves between two thin straight bands (Pl. 68). The artistic design of this scroll work is quite akin to the plaster decorations as well as stone decorations in Balban's tomb and earlier buildings like stone screen of Quwwatul Islam mosque at New Delhi and Arhai-din-ka-Jhopra mosque at Ajmer, both belonging to the end of the twelfth century A.D. The band was originally painted with red pigment. Some more designs are visible on the chunks of lime plasters which were found from the debris of the verandah, like intersecting spirals below decorated arches, different floral patterns and flower-medallions which possibly decorated the alcoves, arches of the doors, ceilings etc. The presence of a huge quantity of bricks and brickbats in the excavated debris suggests that the upper parts of these structures including roof were made of brick-masonry.

The room-2 of size 5.65×2.70 m is ornamented with 45 cm deep octagonal water cistern of size 1.45×0.65 m with tapered top covered by a 5 cm raised rectangle of size 1.55×0.75 m. This cistern is provided with a hole of 3 cm diameter for a circular drain in the centre of its northern wall at the bottom probably to clean the cistern from time to time. The horizontal blackish marks of stagnation of water in the cistern were noticed on the upper half of side walls. This room has three openings (Pl. 67) in the east to the verandah, and two niches and one opening at the northern end in the west, one opening in the north probably to the courtyard and one large niche in the south. The eastern openings still retain the evidences of fine lime plaster work at the door-sill provided with the spaces for movement of double-leaf wooden doors. The evidences were also found near the outer end of the side walls of the eastern openings where plaster has a vertical space of about 8 cm wide for wooden frame of the doors. A large number of iron nails, rings, hooks etc. were recovered from contemporary layers of these structures which were possibly used in the doors. The room has fine lime floor (Pl. 14) and plain lime plaster about 2 cm thick on the 59 cm high dado. The northern opening has a drain at the middle which was probably provided in Phase II.

The room-3 is partly exposed and is almost covered by later structures of this period. This room is also ornamented with a 45 cm deep octagonal water cistern of size 1.05×0.45 m with a tapered top covered by a 5 cm raised rectangle of size 1.35×0.60 . The level of this room is 1.75 m lower than the level of the room-1 and about 5 m away from the room-1 in the northern direction. The cistern has no provision of drainage. Only western wall and the cistern belong to this sub-phase-IA and others, i.e., northern wall and southern wall were constructed in the successive sub-phase-IB in

which the northern wall was directly raised upon the lime floor of the preceding sub-phase IA.

More than 3 m exposed part of the lime plastered drain is parallel to the room-1 in north with a gap of about 70 cm and about half a metre lower than the level of room-1. The other parts of the drain were covered by the structure of Phase-II of this period. This 22-23 cm deep and about 12 cm wide drain has a slope towards east and it also runs west to east. The water of octagonal water cistern of room-2 was also drained probably through this drain. Another 0.70 m long tapered drain coming from south probably from room-1 also joins it at the western end.

About 140 m far from this exposed part of the palace complex, another room of size 13 x 4 m is also ornamented with a 60 cm deep octagonal water cistern of size 1.70 x 0.85 m with two covered feeding drains at the top, one coming from the north and the other from the south (Pl. 70). The mouth of the drains was made of red sandstone and opened at the top at the extreme end of the mouth. The room has 1.05 m wide three openings in the east to the courtyard. The courtyard has a lime plastered structure of a 13 cm deep basin of size 1.0 x 0.48 m in shoe shape which is attached with a drain in the north (Pl. 77). This exposed part may also be a part of the same complex, though of another building.

The room with eight lotus petal designed water cistern and three arched openings reminds³¹ one to the courtyard of Madrasat al-Firdaws at Aleppo in the Syrian Islamic Republic³² which is dated to about A.D. 1234-37 and is contemporary to this complex.

Other important structure of this sub-phase revealed in square C7 is the partly exposed lime plastered small water tank of brick masonry. This tank is divided into two parts by a separation wall in which the western part is provided with a hole at the bottom of the southern wall. The other parts of the tank are covered by the later wall, i.e. western wall of the gallery of a house complex of Phase-II of this period and the exposed part of the tank with its adjoining area was levelled by filling the earth, ash and potsherds etc. to make the floor of the gallery and finally plastered over it in Phase II.

In this sub-phase two types of water tanks are found of which first type is projected over the working level and other type is constructed under the ground level which is described here as a cistern. The second type, i.e. cistern has two different shapes in the form of circle and octagon. Among these two, the octagonal water cisterns are frequently constructed. The cisterns have a difference in drainage system, the circular cistern has feeding drains at the top and octagonal cisterns have in first case feeding drains

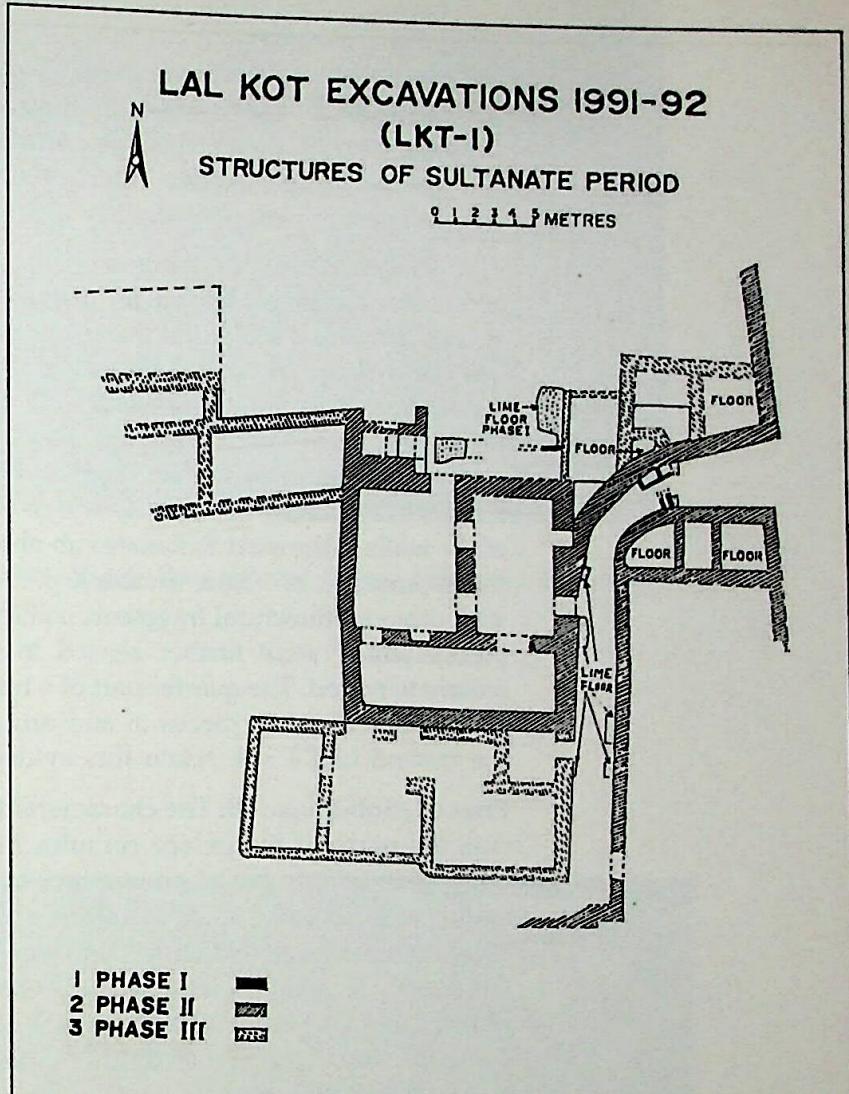


Fig.21. Lal Kot Excavations 1991-92. Structures of Sultanate period

at the top, in the second case a clearing drain at the bottom and in the third case it has no provision of drain, neither at the top nor at the bottom.

The notable feature of the structures of this sub-phase was the use of brick-masonry for the construction of water cistern, tank, small alcoves and the upper parts of the random rubble wall above the height of the small alcoves of 1.25 m. All structures have fine or decorated lime plaster, white in colour in which the decorated parts were probably painted with red colour. The structures were provided with fine lime floors. Amongst the floors, the floor of room-2 is very smooth and strong.

Probably the ceilings of these structures were also provided with decorated lime plaster. The fragments of lime plaster of ceilings, decorated with undercut designs of flower were recovered

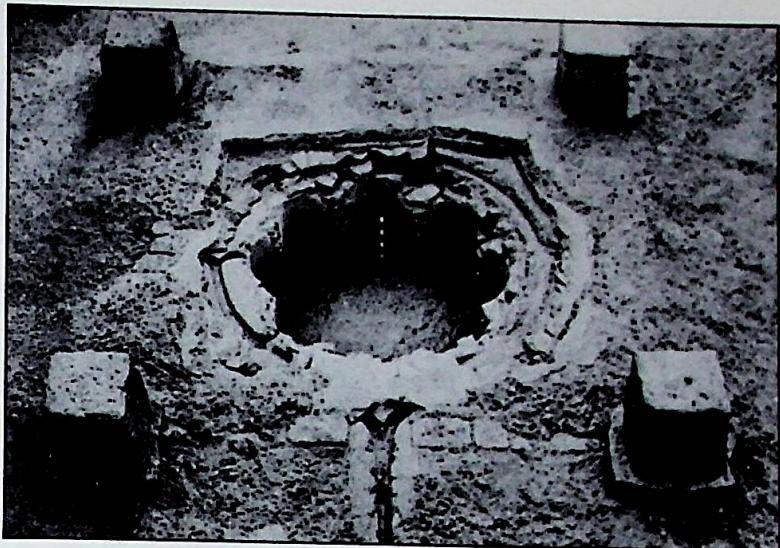
from the debris. Almost all of the rooms of this sub-phase were provided with small cisterns, probably constructed to cool the rooms as well as to ornate them. Another notable feature of this sub-phase was the use of different landing platforms. The room-1, verandah and room-2 have the same floor level, higher than other parts of the palace complex.

The pre-Muslim association of this structural period of early Sultanate age is evidenced by a number of scattered or reused architectural and sculptural stone fragments. Among them, the hind part of a figure of Nandi, the *vāhana* of Lord Śiva, reused in the foundation of wall as a rubble (Pl. 72), four decorated pillar bases reused in room-1 of palace complex around the circular water cistern, the figure of *śārdūla* (lion) and a figure of *mithunas* found from the debris are noteworthy which were reused in construction of the walls in the early Sultanate sub-phase IA; the figure of Varāha, the incarnation of Viṣṇu, *āmalakas*, pieces of *adhiṣṭhāna* mouldings with other architectural fragments come under the category of such pieces which were further reused in the successive phases of Sultanate period. The quarter part of a huge *āmalaka* and pillar bases scattered with other pieces in and around the Anang Tal area of the mound LKT-I still retain this evidence.

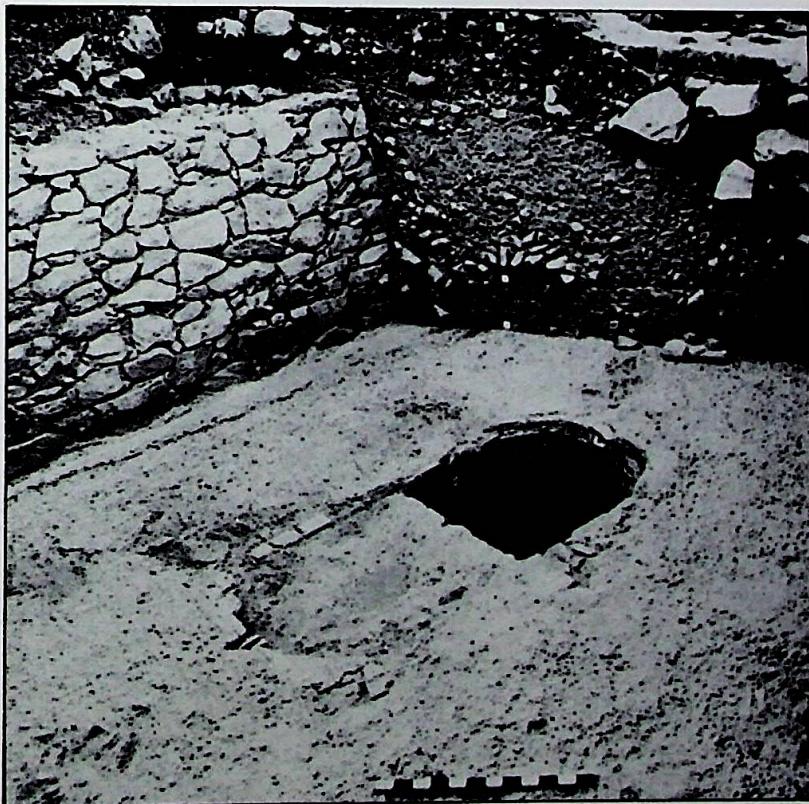
Phase I, Sub-Phase IB: The characteristic feature of this sub-phase was the reuse of the palace complex of the former sub-phase IA with some additions and alternations by constructing the partition walls, in some cases directly raised upon the floors of Sub-phase IA and in others raised with foundation after cutting the floors of the phase. A partition wall, running east-west, found in quadrant 1 of square ZD1 in room-3 of the palace complex was directly raised upon the lime floor in the southern side of the octagonal cistern in sub-phase IB. Similarly, another wall, running north-south, falls in quadrant 1 of square ZC1 which was constructed with the foundation after cutting the floors of the Sub-phase IA.

Phase II: The residents of this phase partly reused the palace complex of Phase I and added some new constructions in the north as well as in the east (Pl. 76). They also constructed new house complexes separately in which one is revealed in squares B7, C7, D7, B8, C8 and D8. Other structural remains of this phase have been found in the shapes of a number of random rubble walls, lime floors, mud floor, floors made of brick-jelly, lime plastered brick floor (Pl. 15), stone paved floor and part plan of the rooms etc. which are scattered in different squares and do not show a complete plan.

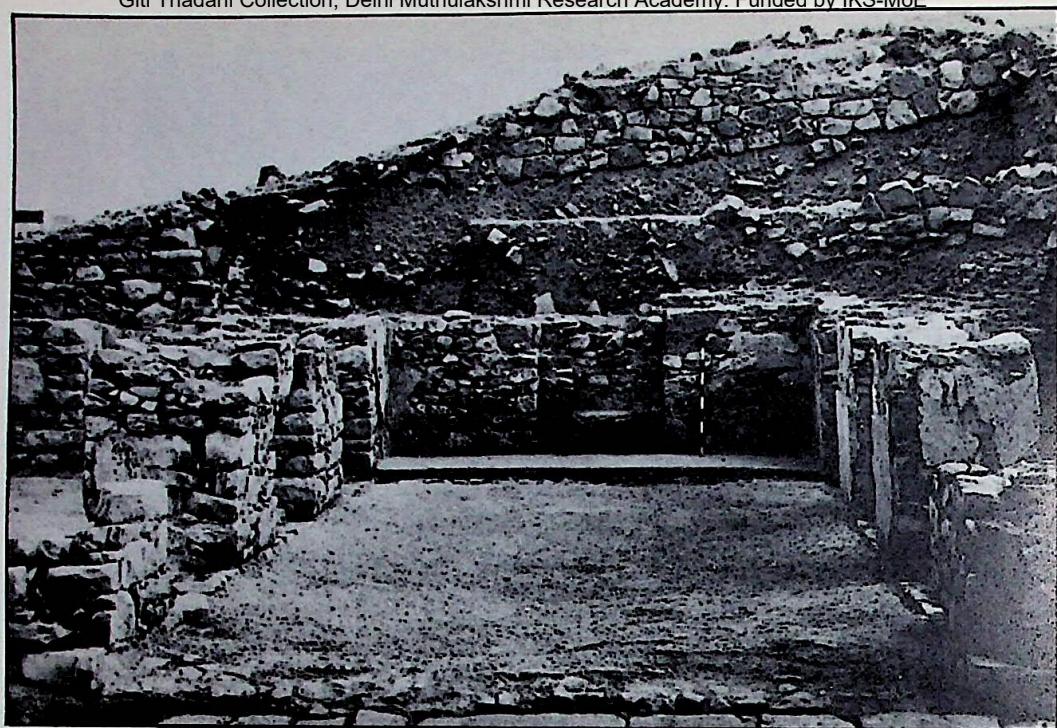
It seems that soon after the rule of Slave dynasty, the nobles of the Delhi Sultanate occupied the citadel area, and they were the probable occupants of Phase II. They reused the room-1, verandah and room-2 etc. of almost higher portion of the complex of the



Pl. 69. Lal Kot 1992-93: Early Sultanate palace, lotus petal shaped water cistern.



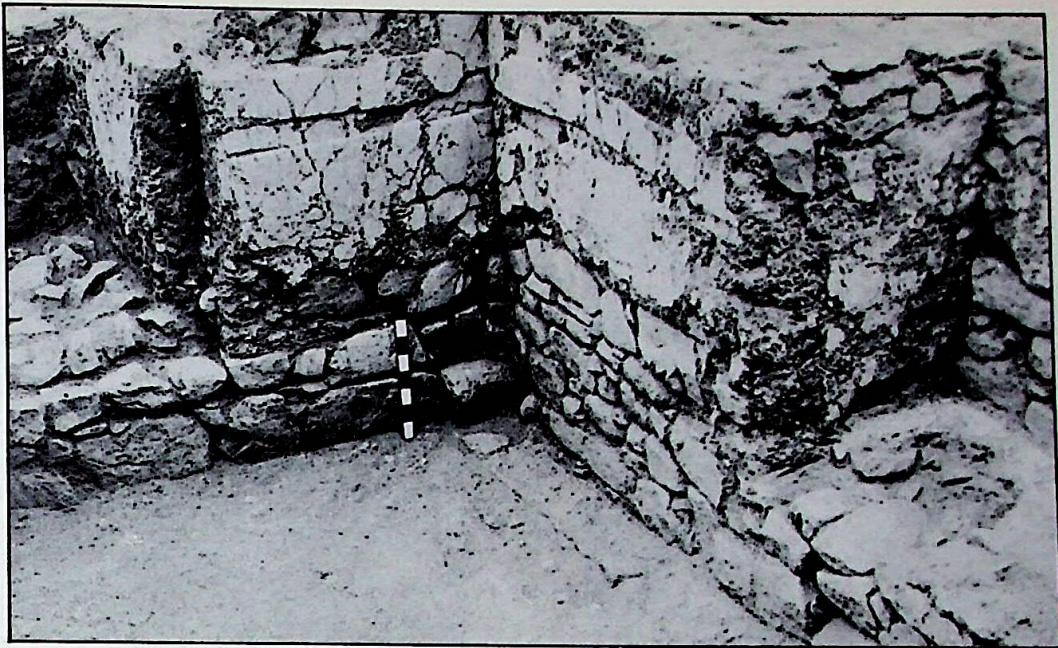
Pl. 70. Lal Kot 1993-94: Octagonal water cistern.



Pl. 71. Lal Kot 1992-93: Early Sultanate palace, verandah.



Pl. 72. Lal Kot 1993-94: Hind part of Nandi in the foundation wall of a structure, Period II.



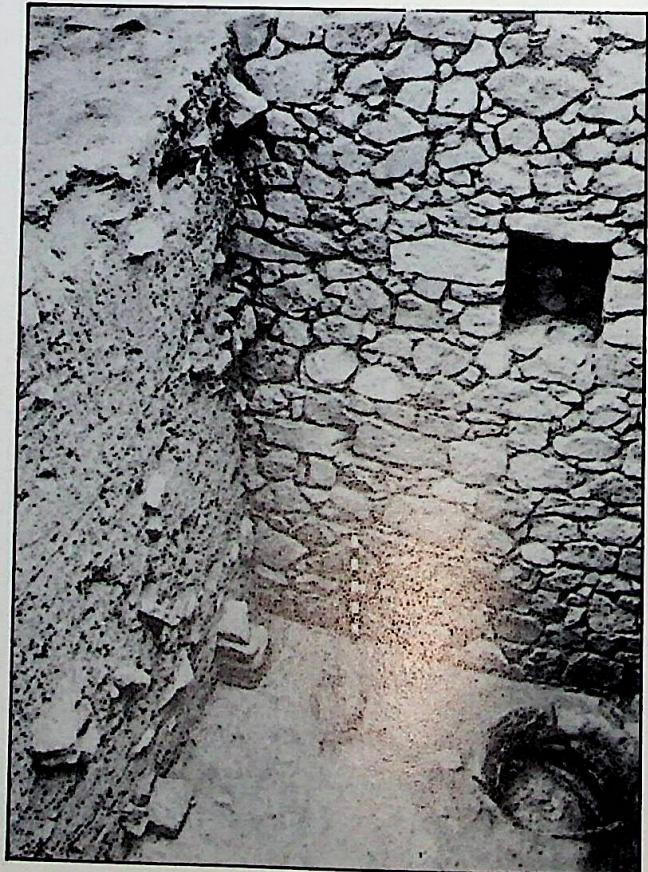
Pl. 73. Lal Kot 1991-92: Lime plaster on inner wall of a room, Phase II, Period II.



Pl. 74. Lal Kot 1991-92: Staircase, Phase II, Period II.



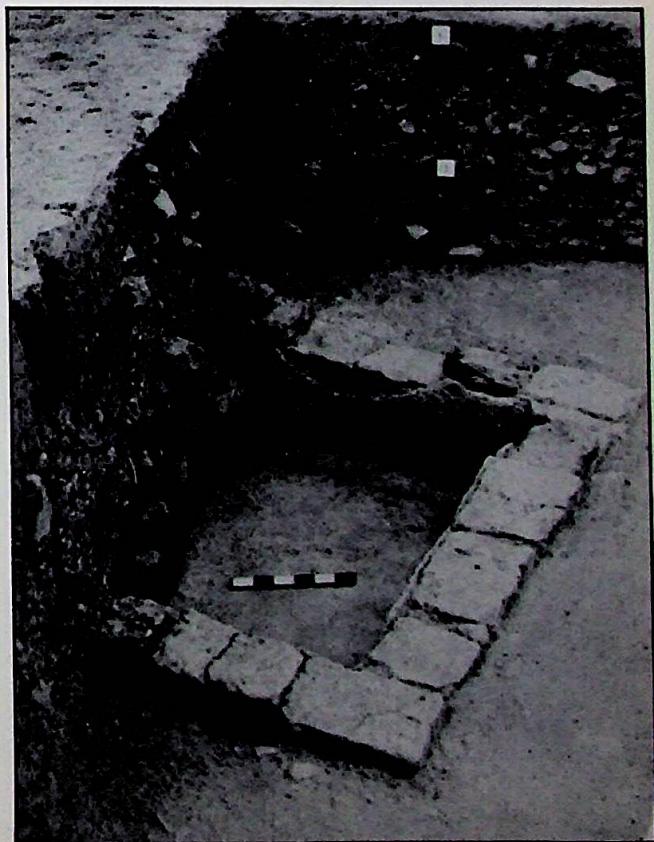
Pl. 75. Lal Kot 1991-92: Gallery, Phase II,
Period II.



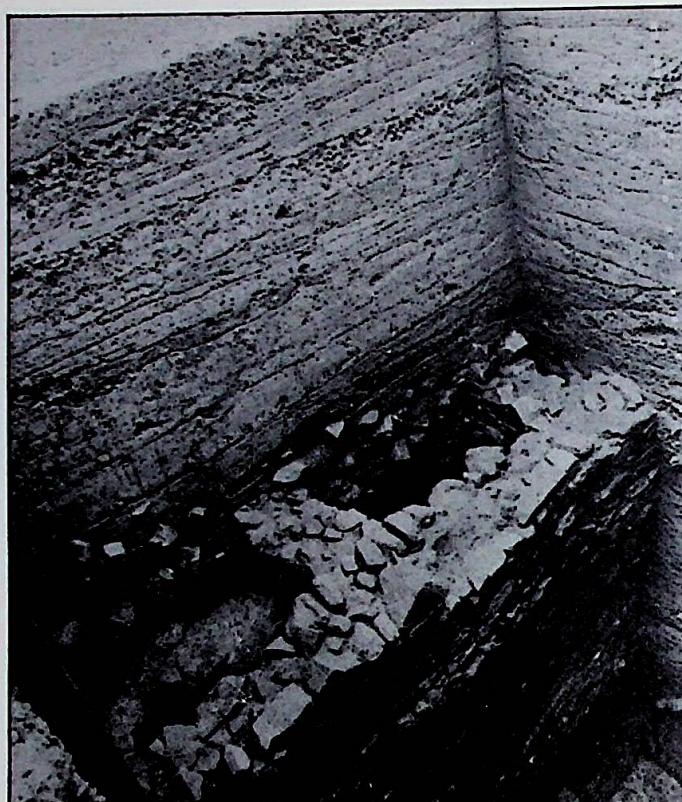
Pl. 76. Lal Kot 1993-94: Partly exposed room with
niche and oven, Period II.



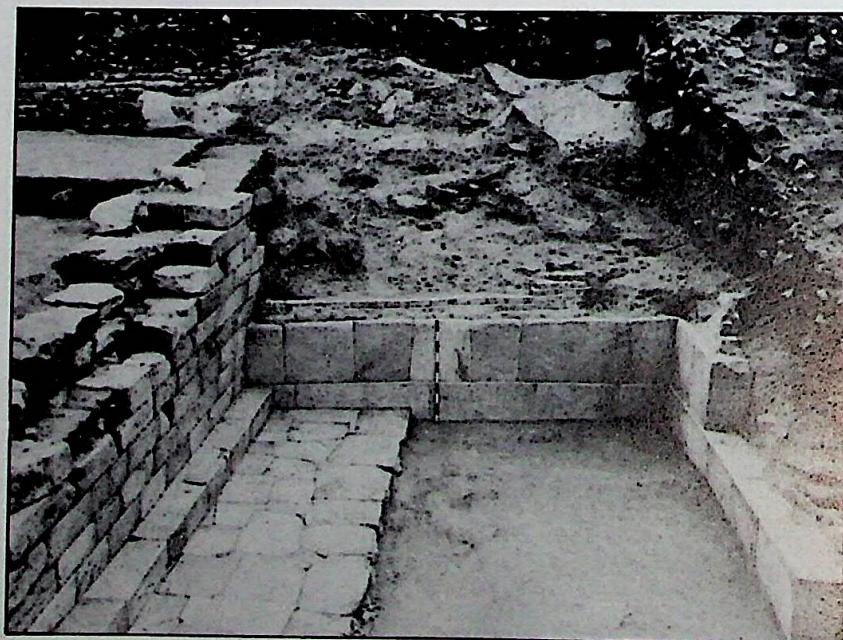
Pl. 77. Lal Kot 1993-94: Shallow basin on floor,
Phase I, Period II.



Pl. 78. Lal Kot 1992-93: Rectangular water cistern,
Phase II, Period II.



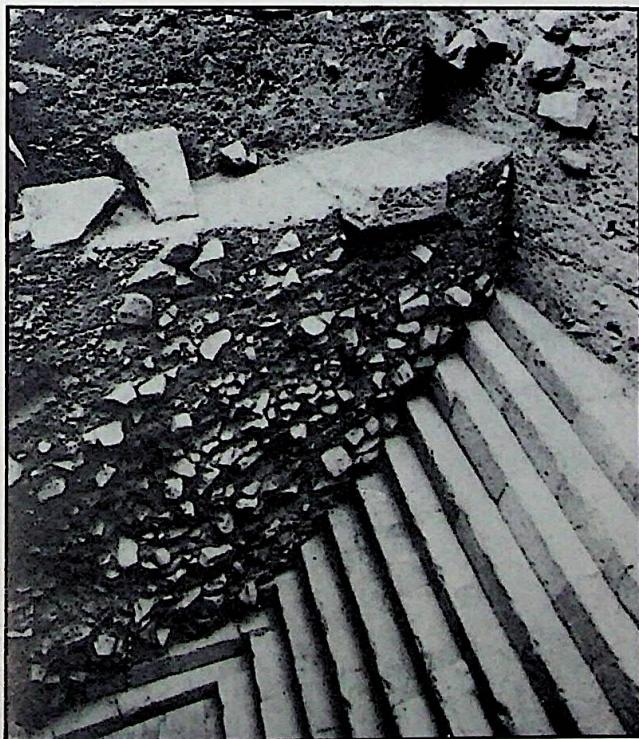
Pl. 79. Lal Kot 1993-94: Partly exposed walls of two rooms and drain at LKT-2, Period II.



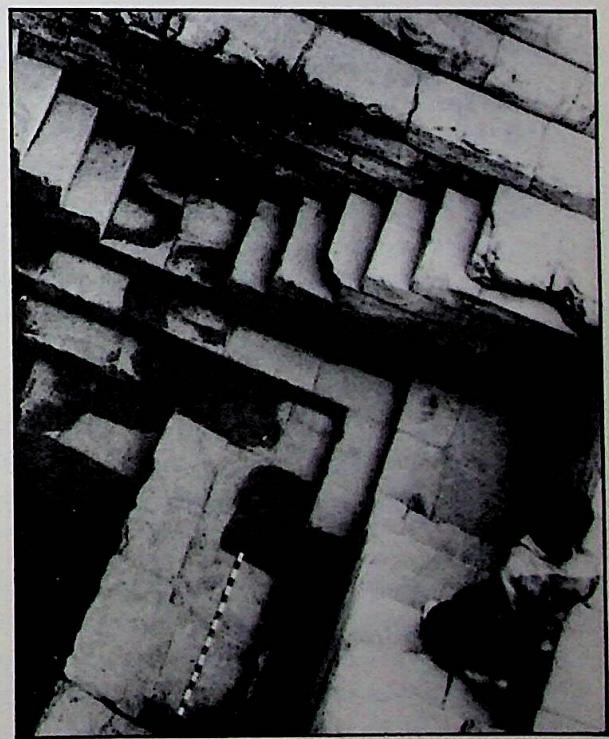
Pl. 80. Lal Kot 1991-92: South-western corner of Anang Tal.



Pl. 81. Lal Kot 1992-93: North-western part of Anang Tal.



Pl. 82. Lal Kot 1992-93: North-eastern part of Anang Tal up to second landing.



Pl. 83. Lal Kot 1994-95: North-eastern part of Anang Tal below the second landing.



Pl. 84. Lal Kot 1992-93: Lower part of terracotta mould showing Tirthankara, Period I.



Pl. 85. Lal Kot 1992-93: Impression of the mould of Pl. 84.

preceding phase. They added new stone paved courtyard, rooms, pillared verandah with rectangular water cistern etc. over the debris of lower portions of the palace complex of the preceding phase. The octagonal water cistern of the room-2 was not in use and was filled with earth and brickbats and finally plastered over it. The lower half of the eastern central opening of room-2 to the verandah was closed by raising a brick-masonry wall. In the north the stone paved courtyard of size 11.25×9.30 m was attached partly with room-1, verandah and room-2. It was provided with a lime plastered drain coming from south at the middle of the northern door of room-2 and turned towards east at the middle of the courtyard which is narrow and shallow at mouth and wider and deeper towards the end with a slope towards east. The drain also runs below the door-sill after the eastern edge of the courtyard and the wider portion of the drain was covered with stone slabs. The partly exposed pillared verandah attached to the courtyard in the west has 11 pillar bases and a rectangular lime plastered water cistern of brick-masonry probably in the centre (Pl. 78). A room totally opened to the west and consisting of a large niche in south towards the east of the room-1, another room with raised floor, also totally opened in the west and having a large niche in the north and a small space probably for storage with raised floor also totally opened in the west, provided in the south-eastern corner of room-1 were added in this phase to the Early Sultanate palace complex. Hence, the early Sultanate palace complex was converted in a normal house complex with the above additions and also possibly was not used by the royal personage in this phase.

The partly exposed area of another house complex (Fig. 21) has three rooms, a gallery and a staircase. There the room-1 of size 6.70×4.80 m is attached with room-2 in the east with two openings, with room-3 in the south with an opening at the western corner, attached with a 1.10 m wide staircase to lead upwards with an opening in north and a niche in the south. The room has remains of plain but raised and cut lime plaster at the south-eastern corner (Pl. 73). The room-2 of size 9.60×3 m has two openings in the north, one at the extreme west to the room-1 and another too wide to the room-3. The room-3 of size 6.70×3.90 m has a connection with the room-1 by two openings in the west and with room-2 by a wide opening in the south. This room opens in a 2.0 m wide gallery (Pl. 74) in the east by probably two openings, the northern one of which was closed in later phase.

Phase III: Phase III is characterised by a number of random rubble walls, courtyard, hearth, ovens, large sized storage jars buried into the floor and a thick and large size random rubble wall running north to south which also fortified the western side of the mound

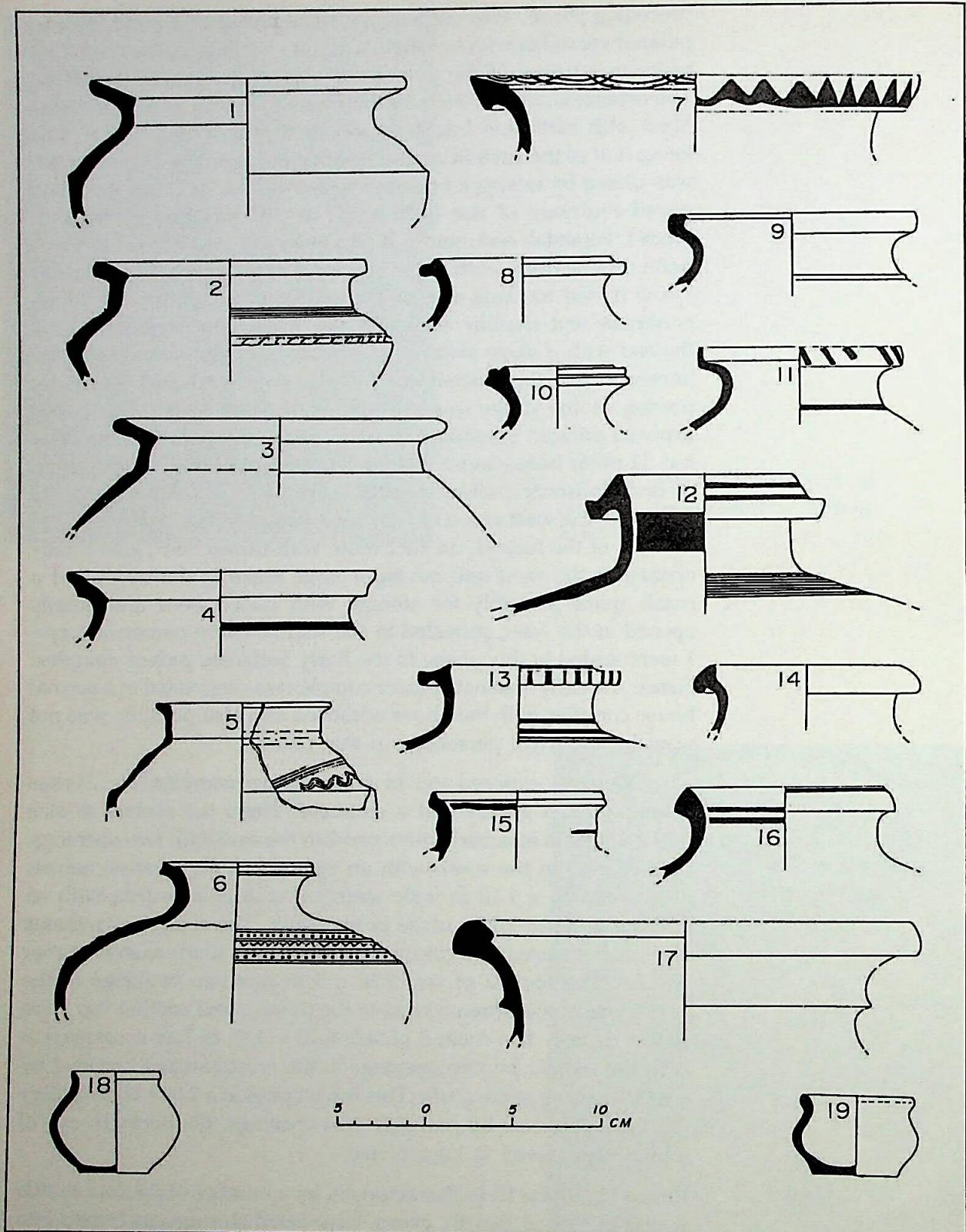


Fig.22. Lal Kot 1992-95: Plain and decorated red ware, Period II: 1-2, handis; 3-17, vases and 18-19, miniature vases

LKT-1. In some cases, the residents reused the structures of the preceding phase.

Among the above, the two partly exposed random rubble walls, both running west to east to sizes 3.0 m long and 0.95 m high and 8.40 m long and 1.0 m high respectively, have the second one having the remains of lime plaster and represent this phase and both the walls are attached with southern section of square B1, quadrants 1 and 2, and square C1, quadrant 1 and at some places these walls directly rest over the walls of the preceding phase. The courtyard of size 6.20 x 6.0 m partly made of mud and partly of stone slabs of various sizes and the partly exposed lime plastered water cistern are the noteworthy structures of this phase.

It was noticed that at certain places some walls of the height of 4.5 m belonging to the early phase of Period II were reused in Phase II and also in Phase III by raising the floor levels. At another place the lime chunks of the floor of preceding phase were reused in construction of a wall as rubble.

The excavations were conducted in the square YA1 towards western side of the so-called inner wall of Lal Kot in order to confirm the period of the inner wall which was found to be only the outer western wall of a huge complex belonging to Phase III of Period II (late thirteenth or early fourteenth century A.D.) and not the inner wall of the fort of Lal Kot as suggested by some of the archaeologists in the last century. Excavations have brought to light the structures of Phase II of Period II in the lower levels abutting the section facing east containing the wall of Phase III of Period II. From these lower levels coins of the Slave dynasty were found, below which lie the strata of decomposed rock of *murrum* and rocky powder of golden and silvery white colour. Further investigations about it are required at the north-western corner of the mound LKT-1 to confirm the above statement.

Phase IV: Phase IV is limited only on the higher areas of the mound LKT-1. A number of random rubble walls, lime floors and drains have been revealed at the site. Among these, partly exposed random rubble wall running west to east and joining with another wall coming from north is noteworthy.

After this last occupational phase of the site, the mound LKT-1 was abandoned, possibly due to unavailability of sufficient water in this area and also due to shifting of facilities to the new capital sites of Delhi towards the end of the Tughlaq period.

(B) Pottery: Glazed ware, both of sandy friable as also of ordinary terracotta core was profusely used in Period II. The other notable feature of this period was the presence of foreign elements in the ceramics, i.e.

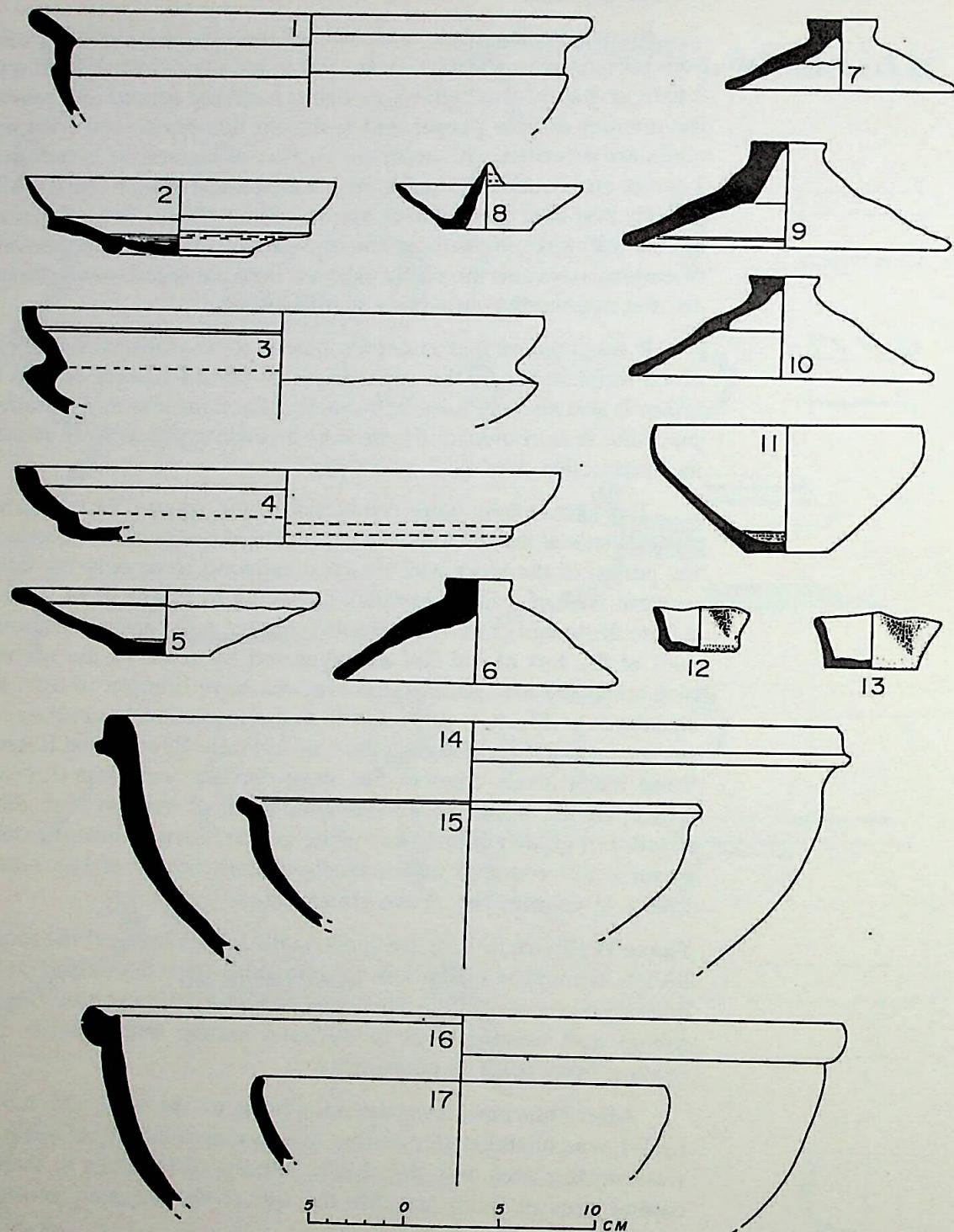


Fig.23. Lal Kot 1992-95: Red ware, Period II: 1, pan; 2-4, dishes; 5-10, lids; 11, bowl; 12-13, lipped lamps and 14-17, basins

- (i) the Chinese celadon ware;
- (ii) fine quality of thin (monochrome and polychrome) glazed ware; and
- (iii) some sherds of Chinese porcelain from uppermost strata (Pl. 30).

The other associated pottery was mainly a red ware (Fig. 8) with occasional use of grey ware, both plain as well as decorated. By and large, the pottery was wheel made, though there do occur some examples which are exclusively handmade. The green glass ware also makes its remarkable presence in this period. They include a large number of fragments of thin vessels and bottles probably having concave base (Pl. 35). A few sherds of stone ware were also found.

(a) Glazed Ware: The glazed ware (Pls. 32, 33) with whitish or brownish sandy and gritty friable core, has been found in the shapes of dish, shallow to deep bowl, fluted miniature bowl and inkpot with ring base. Their surface is either smooth or crackled. Most of the sherds are decorated with painted geometrical and floral designs but two pieces are painted with the faunal patterns with the use of fish.

Both floral and faunal designs have been drawn in black or dark green colour and other works including filling work have been done in light green, light blue, blue and black in the forms of shades, chequers and hatched lines etc. which have been picked out on white or creamy surface and in some case on blue or bluish green surface and thereafter the pot was coated with the film of glaze. Two inscribed sherds in Arabic, the first one in blue colour in relief on a bowl and the other painted in chocolate colour on a dish are important findings (Pl. 28). A notable feature of this period was the use in plenty of circular discs or gamesmen looking like hopscotches made out of glazed ware, mostly with gritty core.

Dish (Pl. 31), shallow to deep bowl, elongated vase and inkpots (Pl. 27) are the main shapes in the glazed ware of ordinary terracotta core, both plain as well as decorated. The designs were drawn usually in single black colour picked out on original red surface and in some cases on coloured surface like blue, turquoise green, grey etc. and thereafter the pot was coated with the film of glaze. But a dish decorated with two colours on the pattern of white glazed ware has the floral design in black filled with light blue on white surface.

(b) Celadon Ware: Grey porcellanous and high fired and vitrified stone ware, sometimes with moulded designs and glaze of bluish green or green celadon was very common during Sung (A.D. 960-1279)

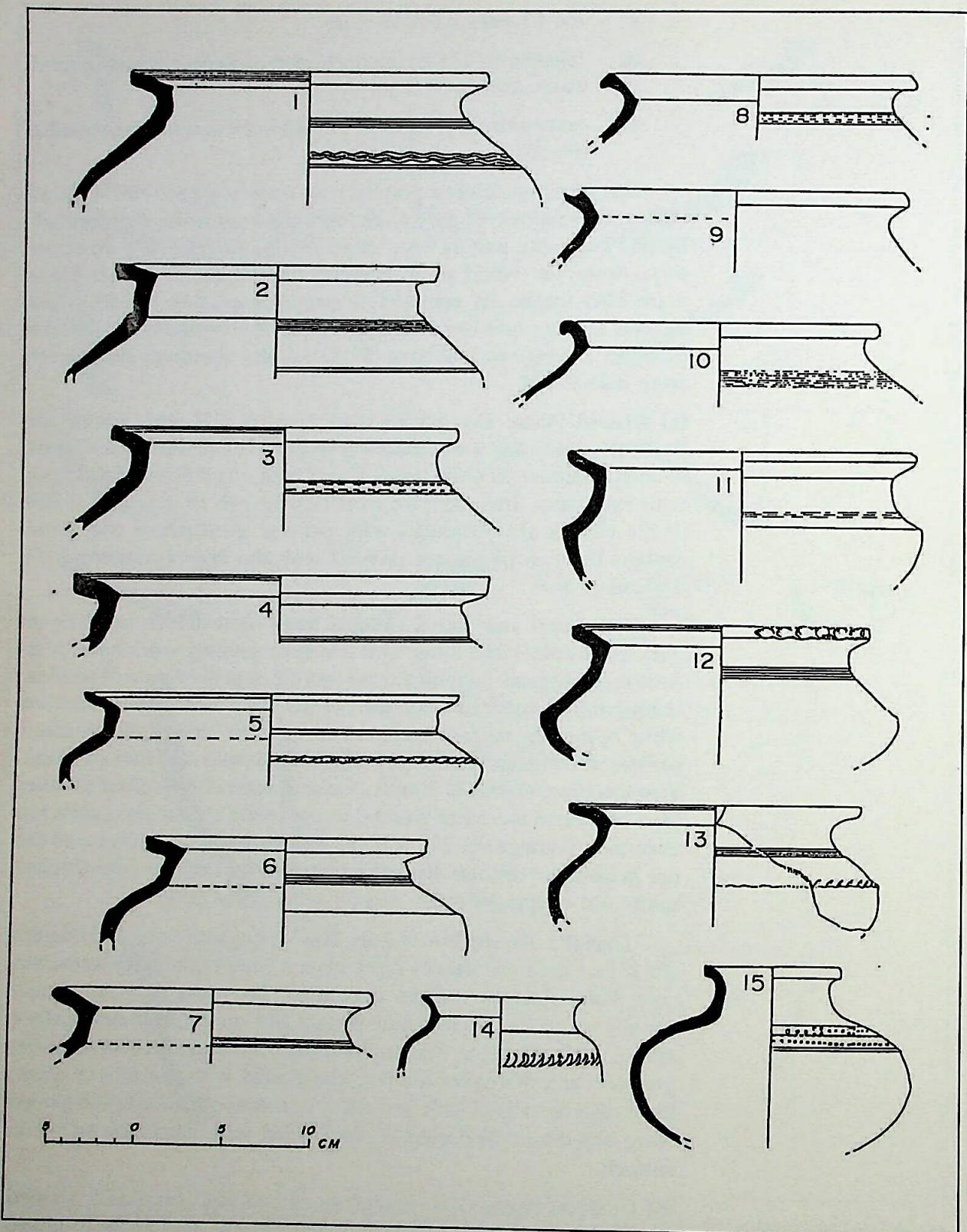


Fig.24. Lal Kot 1992-95: Plain and decorated black slipped grey ware, Period II: 1-4, 7-10 and 15, vases; 5-6, 11-13, handis and 14, miniature vase

and Mongol Yuan (A.D. 1280-1368) dynastic periods in China. The Sung and Yuan periods correspond with the flourishing period at Lal Kot; the Chinese celadon recovered from Period II here is seemingly of the Yuan origin and assumably imported because of the alleged property of changing colour poisoned food when served in vessels made of it. The monochrome glazed pottery was replaced by blue-painted and polychrome porcelains during period of the Mings (A.D. 1368-1644) in China³³ whenceforth they were exported all-around the world. The evidence of stitching the broken pots with metal wire is found on celadon pottery. In addition to the white to greyish well levigated china clay of hard paste variety, i.e. imported green celadon ware, the indigenous rough variety with brownish sandy and gritty friable core are also found (Pl. 29).

(c) **Stone Ware:** The stone ware is the new finding of the third season. A sherd of grey stone ware trough with a lug handle has the holes for stitching with iron wire or clamps. Two sherds of bowls made out of white marble have also been found.

(d) **Red Ware:** The important shapes of the red ware (Figs. 22, 23) are storage jars, basins, *borasi* or heater, medium sized vases, cooking *handis*, pans, handled pots, bowls, lids, miniature vases, spouted vases, lipped lamps, lamp stands with hollow shaft and series of lipped lamps at different levels (Pl. 107) and flower vases. Amongst these (Pls. 36, 37) a handled cup or *lotā* fully decorated with stamped design in relief has a long concave foot (Pl. 13). A flower vase attached with a pan at the narrow and closed bottom decorated with applique design has four finials on the rim of the pan.

(e) **Grey Ware:** The black slipped grey ware (Figs. 24, 25) is found in the shapes of nail headed basins, pans, *handis*, medium sized vases and small to large finials decorated with incised, stamped and applique designs.

The ring base and lips in lamps are the main features of the early Sultanate pottery. The painted decoration on red ware is mostly in black colour but in some cases white is also applied on the interior of the bowl and on the shoulder of a vase. The golden and silvery dusts are also occasionally used in painting on pottery. Some sherds of vases having decoration on the shoulder with elephant, horse, lion and other animal motifs in relief have been found in red ware as well as in black-slipped grey ware (Pl. 34).

Two sherds (Pl. 105) of Painted Grey Ware of protohistoric origin were also found in two different pits of layer 2 in quadrant 1 of C1 and quadrant 1 of C7 which suggest the location of such a protohistoric site in the vicinity.

(C) **Antiquities:** Period II has been found to be very rich in the yield of antiquities of many kinds. Some of their important features

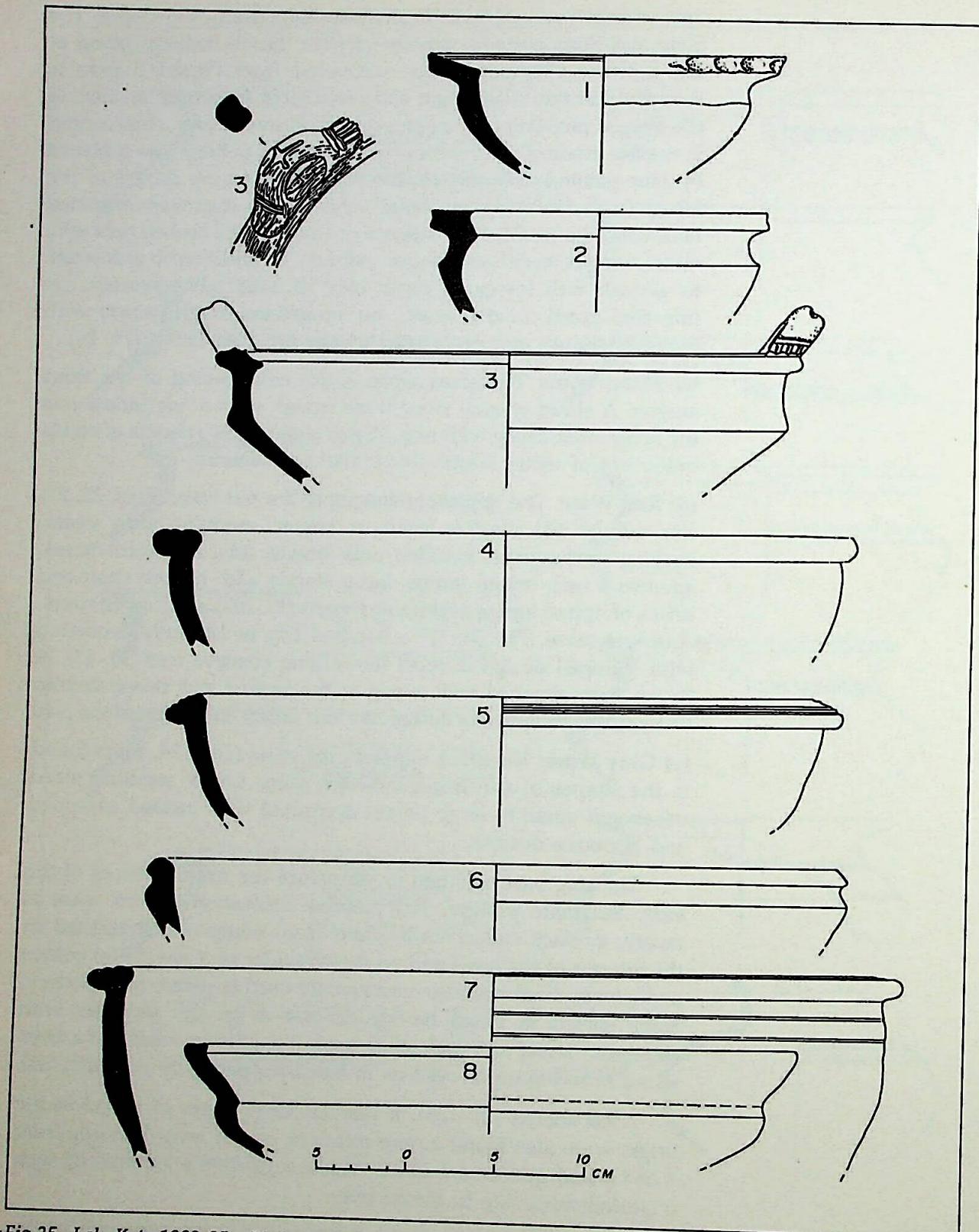


Fig. 25. Lal Kot 1992-95: Plain and decorated black slipped thick grey ware, Period II: 1-3, pans; 4-7, basins and 8, dish

are mentioned below:

i) *Coins*: 277 circular copper coins (Pl. 106) were found during the excavations. The earliest coins are of horseman-and-bull type which were started by Rajput rulers and continued to be issued by the early Sultans of Delhi. At least two of the coins of Muhammad Ghori bear *Nāgari* legend (*Maha)mmadavi (ni Sāma). Some of the coins are *Adali* coins, issued by Iltutmish and other Slave rulers and bear legends like *Hazrat-i-Dillī*, *Adale-Sultān* or *Assultān*, occasionally within octagram inscribed in circle. A coin of Raziya (?) and another of Kaikubad were also found. Coins of Khalji rulers with title *Assultānul Azam* and names Jalaluddin Feroz Shah and Alauddin Muhammad Shah (Jalaluddin and Alauddin Khalji) and Tughlaq rulers Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq Shah and Feroz Shah Tughlaq have also been found. On one of the these coins the legend is *Khilafatul Momīn*.*

In one of the instances, 15 copper coins were found together belonging to the Mamluk dynasty and cotton pieces were found stuck with them suggesting that they were kept in some cotton cloth or pouch.

ii) *Terracottas*: A total number of 900 human and animal terracotta figurines were found from different levels of Period II. The former can be categorised into two groups of soldiers and horse-riders, the soldiers outnumbering the horse-riders.

The soldiers and horse-riders both are bearded and horse-riders have been modelled in such a way that they can be easily set on the horseback. The figurines (Pls. 93-99) are handmade and crude, but they represent a tradition which was hitherto thought to have started in the Rajput period as evidenced from the discovery of such figurines from excavations at Purana Qila conducted from 1969 to 1973. But such figurines are found in Lal Kot excavations from only Period II. Their utility seems to be more as toys than as ritualistic figures. While their nose portions are made by the modeller by pressing the clay with thumb and first finger, eyes, turbans and belts with buckles are made by the applique method. Beards, single and double cross-belts and upper garments are shown with incised lines made on them. In most of the cases they wear conical caps and a few have turbans or turbans with the central cone put on the top of the head. The legs are modelled in a way that they can keep balance and remain standing. They wear belts either made with applique method with a central buckle or depicted with double horizontal incised lines with a series of dots. Evidences of golden wash over them have also been noticed. In rare cases they hold babies in their lap or they are stuck with them. Daggers tied with their belts at the waist have also been found and in one case the figure holds a curved weapon in right hand.

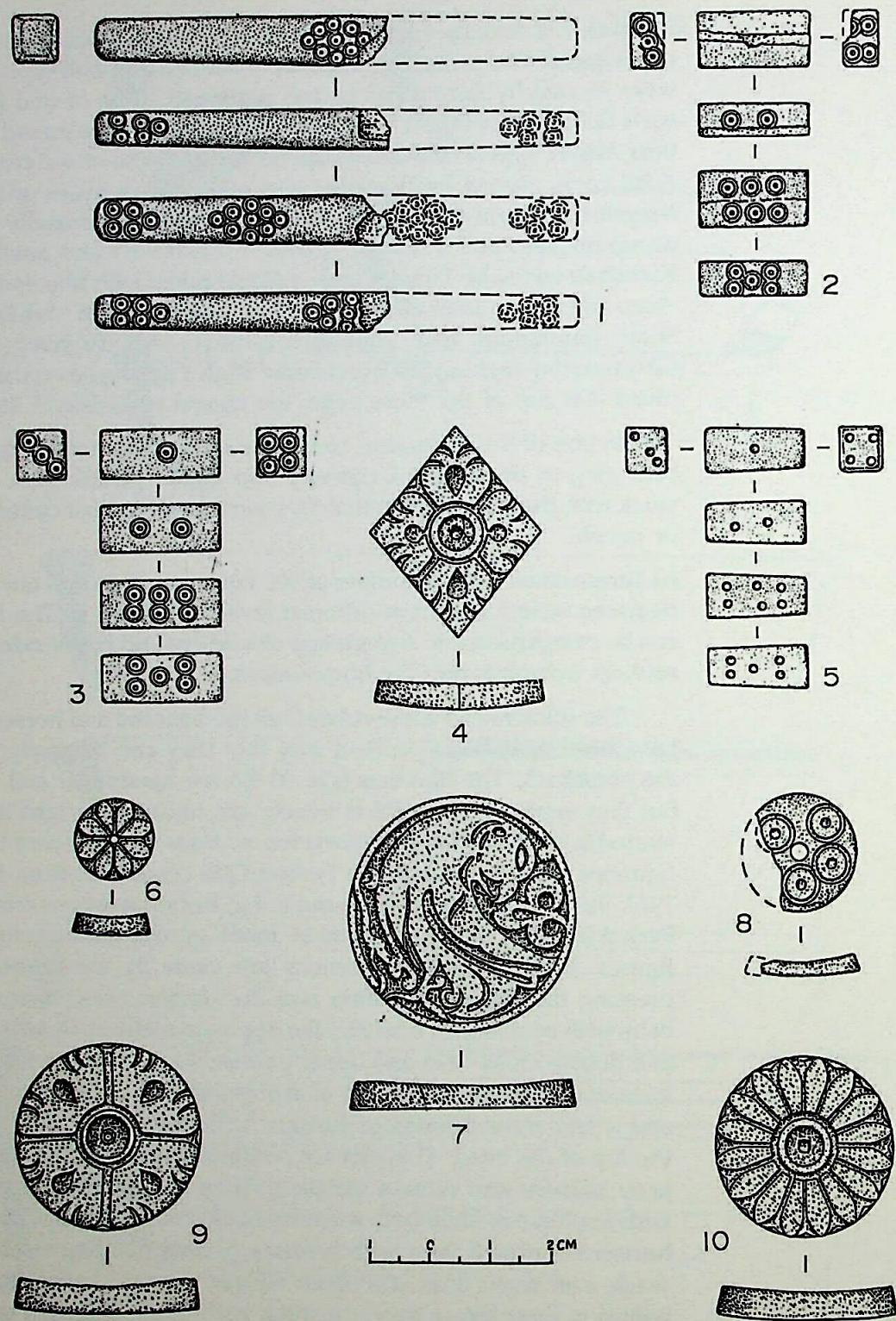


Fig.26. Lal Kot 1992-95: Dice and studs, Period II: 1, 3, ivory; 5, stone; 2, 4, 6-10 bone

Animal figurines (Pl. 100) are likewise modelled with applique technique having decorative incised lines casually for hair and manes of horses. Horse (Pls. 101, 103) is the most common motif showing bridles and saddles. Portions of horse-riders accoutered with swords are also seen stuck to them. Besides horse, figurines of elephants (Pl. 104), camels, monkeys (Pl. 102) and dogs have also been found. An interesting broken figurine of a monkey is depicted with raised right hand touching the temple and eye. A few animal figurines are unidentifiable.

iii) Other Finds: Beads (Pl. 25) and pendants of glass, terracotta, ivory, coral, bone and semi-precious stones like carnelian, lapis lazuli, and quartz; bangle pieces (Pl. 24) of glass, ivory, bone and other material; ivory objects (Fig. 26) including rings, gamesmen (Pl. 25), dice of various shapes with dots marking numbers (Pl. 22) and human head (Pl. 20); bone objects (Pl. 26) of furnitures and gamesmen; two gold foil objects being stud and bead; gold wires of embroidery; fragments of inscribed Persian glazed tiles with Arabic legends; finger rings of (Pl. 23) semi-precious stones, copper and ivory; copper objects including ear-cleaners, incense burner, rings and bowls (Pl. 21); iron arrow-heads, knives, door-nails, hooks and such other pieces; silver foil amulet, terracotta whistle (Pl. 90) and other minor antiquities have been recovered in a large number.

Study of faunal remains³⁴ recovered from the excavations has brought to light the fact that only goat and sheep (*Capra/ovis*) were utilised for food in Rajput period. Out of 42 bone samples, 41 belong to them while one belongs to buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*). But interestingly, during early Sultanate period a variety of animals and birds were utilised for food. Out of 147 identified samples, 96 belong to goat and sheep (*Capra/ovis*), 45 to cattle (*Bos cf. indicus*), 2 to deer (*Axis* sp.), 3 to tortoise (*Trionyx* sp.) and 1 to bird (*Aves* sp.). Specimens of chicken (*Gallus galliformes*) and buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) have also been collected from the levels of Period II.

Cuttings in Anang Tal

The lower contours, somewhat squarish (about 50 x 50 m) in the form at the site gave indications about some underground buried structures. Locally, the depression of this site is famous as Anang Tal and the reservoir is believed to have been constructed by Anang Pal, the Tomar ruler. Cunningham also explored it during 1862-65 and measured the dry tal as 169 feet NS x 152 feet EW x 40 feet in depth. Probably the depth of the tank was taken by Cunningham from the top contour (R.L. 244.0 m) to the lowest contour (R.L. 231.0 m) of the tank area. But, the actual tank was buried under the debris of successive periods, either of the tank itself or which fell down into the tank from the structures of northern, eastern and western sides. The southern side of the tank has less structural activities

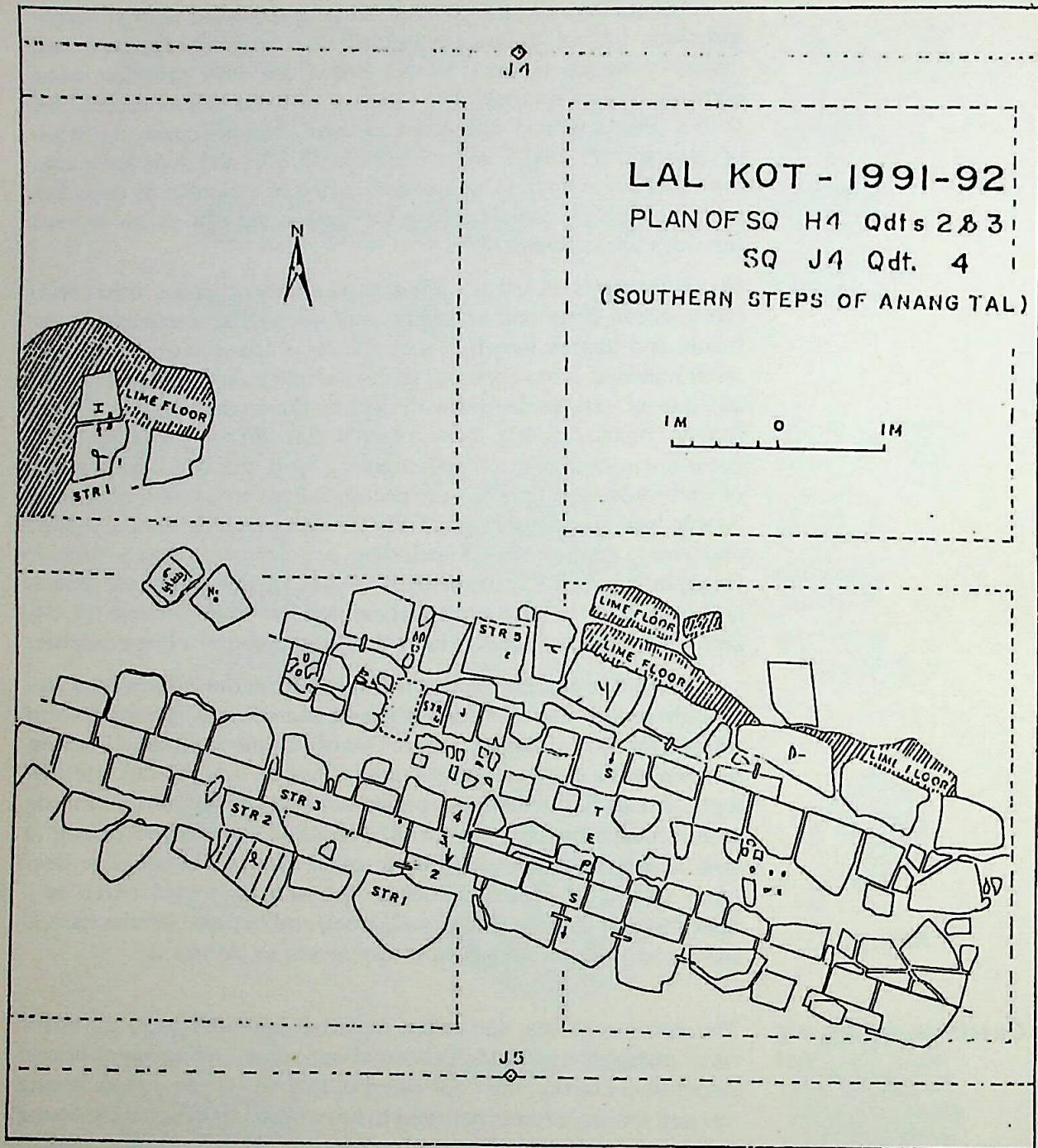


Fig.27. Lal Kot 1991-93: Southern steps of Anang Tal

and has a top contour of about 237-238 m. Therefore, the depth of the tank can be measured below 237-238 m, i.e. below the southern side top contours and not below the 244.0 m or the other top contour of the tank area. It has also been said that the water for making mortar for the construction of Alai Minar was brought in the time of Alauddin Khalji (A.D. 1296 to 1316) from Anang Tal.

The underground buried structures of the so-called Anang Tal, were opened at different places—(i) at the south-western corner in squares J4, H4, G4; (ii) at the extreme northern end of the western side in square J1, (iii) at the north-eastern corner in square P1; and (iv) at the south-eastern corner in square M5 in four successive field seasons from 1991-92 onwards.

The total exposed part seems to be the upper structure of the tank which has in south a retaining wall (Pl. 80) with a staircase (Fig. 27) and two wide stepped landing platforms joined in the west with a slopy lime plastered bedrock, lined or retained by large sized dressed stone blocks at the bottom. About 30 m far from this south-western part in the northern direction, another upper part of the western side of the reservoir has the same type but less slopy lime plastered bedrock with vertically trimmed bottom and two wide stepped landing platforms. The north-eastern corner of the tank has a thick lime plastered slopy retaining wall attached at the bottom with a platform. This platform is provided with staircases at the bottom to land on another lower platform in the east as well as in the north.

The whole exposed structure was buried under the debris either of the tank itself or which fell down in the tank from upper nearby structures of the site. The deposits of debris were marked by layers 1 to 5 in squares G4, H4 and J4 and 1 to 3 in squares P1 and J1. The upper layer 1 in the lower area (also in J1) has a thick deposit of hard yellowish clay with less material which accumulated over the debris through rain-water after the reservoir and site went into disuse. The heavy debris of rectangular stone blocks and slabs with or without mason marks are associated with the tank and the other debris of stone rubbles etc. belongs to the upper nearby structures of the site. The excavated debris was not accumulated into the water because silt is not found in these layers. Possibly, the silt must be too deep and deposited in the lower level of the tank. The material other than the debris, i.e. pottery including glazed wares, copper coins of Delhi Sultanate, human and animal terracotta figurines etc. found from the tank are similar to the site's material and belong to Period II.

The partly exposed southern retaining wall has a length of about 20 m and has 10 courses with a total height of 2.20 m including an offset at the bottom, provided with a staircase about 13 m far from the south-western corner, made of semi-dressed rectangular stone blocks, partly repaired and lined with medium sized dressed stone blocks of ashlar masonry (Fig. 28). The western end of the wall directly rests upon the slopy rock and makes a south-western corner of the Anang Tal. Below the retaining wall is the platform 1 from top which is about 1.20 m wide and 20 m

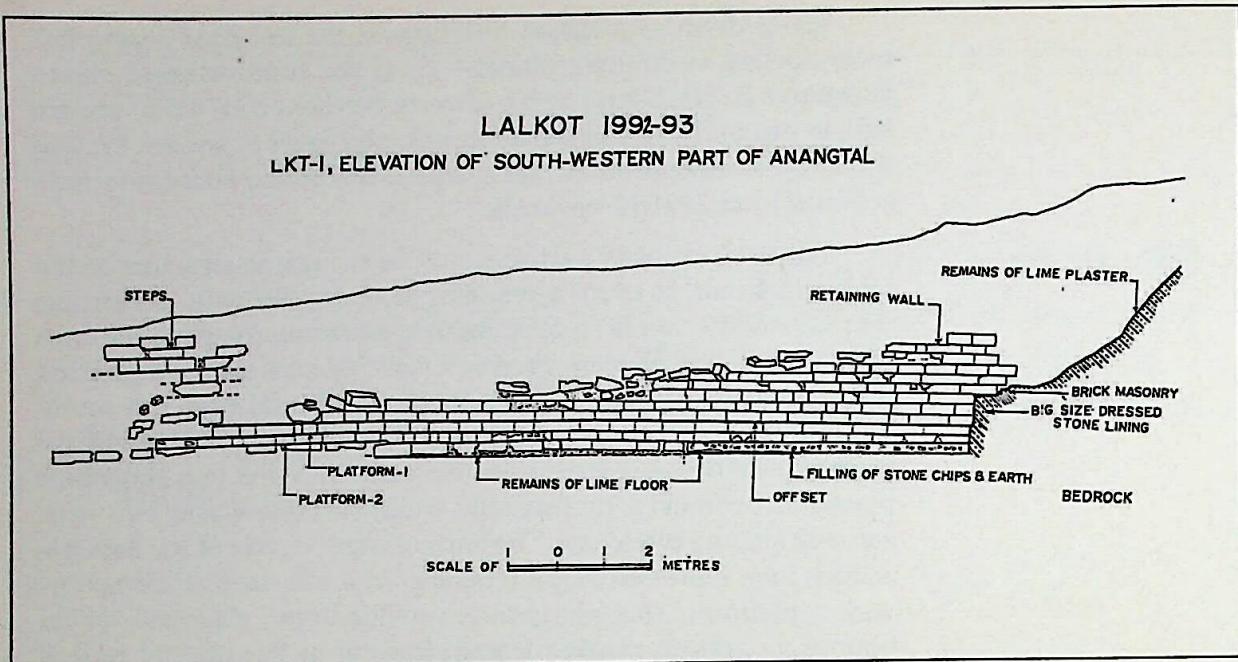
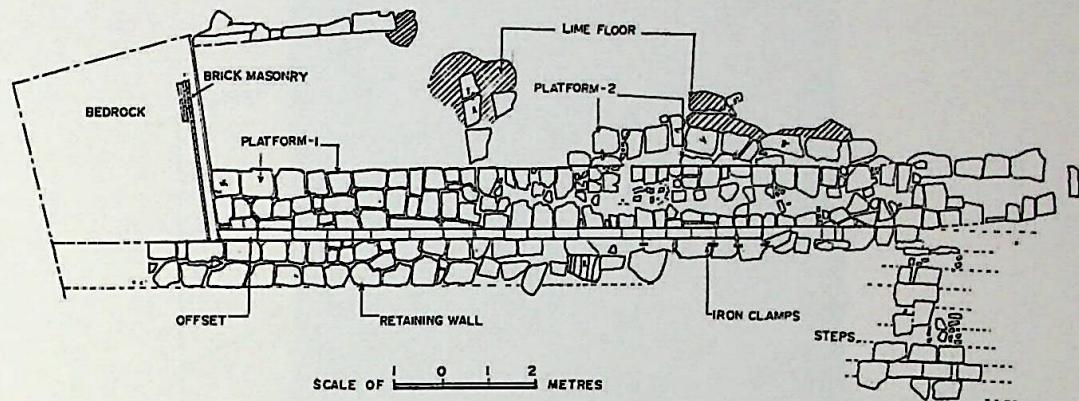


Fig.28. Lal Kot 1992-93: Elevation of south-western part of Anang Tal

long and made of stone slabs of various sizes of which a few are tightened with iron clamps. Below it, is the platform-2, also partially made of same method, but the south-western part of about 5.50×3 m of this platform is filled with stone chips mixed with earth. The platform-2 was strengthened and raised to the level of the thick lime concrete plaster probably of Period I. The partly exposed lime plastered bedrock at the southern end of the western side has a slope towards east and is retained by 1.0 m high wall of dressed rectangular stone blocks of large size stones in ashlar masonry and are tightened with iron clamps at the bottom according to the western side basal plan of the bedrock and makes a shape of L towards east with the dimensions of 4.0 m towards north and about 4.40 m towards east (Fig. 29). The slope of bedrock is made by jutting out small stones, bricks, brickbats etc. with mud mortar in between the gaps of the rock and some brick courses in stepped manner are provided at the bottom of the slope over the 1.0 m high retaining wall. But the lime plaster is applied over the slopy surface of the rock as per the shapes and contours of the bedrock.

Another western part of the lime plastered bedrock at the northern end (Pl. 81) having less slope is made by the same method, but in place of retaining wall, the bottom is vertically trimmed, over which the lime plaster is applied on the whole rocky surface. At this end from the top, the platform-1 is 5.0 m wide and about 89 cm below the slopy rock and is made of rectangular stone slabs which have been strengthened and raised to the level of the thick lime concrete plaster, probably of Period I. The outer core of the platform is made of heavy stone blocks, tightened with iron clamps.

LALKOT 1992-93
LKT-I, PLAN OF SOUTH-WESTERN PART OF ANANGTAL



*Fig.29. Lal Kot 1992-93:
Plan of south-western part of
Anang Tal*

About 40 cm below it, there exists the platform-2, also made of stone slabs. But both of these platforms are about 2.0 m lower than the southern platforms.

Quadrants 4 and then 1 of square M5 were excavated to know the behaviour of the south-eastern corner of the tank. A completely different picture emerged in that corner as it was found that semi-dressed stone blocks, most of them having mason marks, were used in a stepped manner directly embedded over the natural soil. Their alignments towards further north and west were not traced which is possible only if further area is put to excavation.

The north-eastern corner of the tank had already given interesting results in previous season and, therefore, it was decided to expose further area downwards in that corner in the fourth season. Earlier it was noticed that from top up to the depth of 1.80 m below in the corner part of the tank a retaining wall with bricks arranged in step fashion and plastered with thick lime mortar was provided, perhaps to avoid any leakage of water in the adjoining ground over which towards east of the tank there must have been a number of temples and other structures. This was also necessary for filling the crevices and gaps in the bedrock and to make the surface smooth. The lower part of slopy lime plastered retaining wall was merged in a broad landing. In the second stage below the landing a flight of twelve steps in both northern and eastern sides runs

LAL KOT: 1994-95

PICTORIAL VIEW OF PARTLY EXPOSED NORTH-EASTERN CORNER OF ANANG TAL

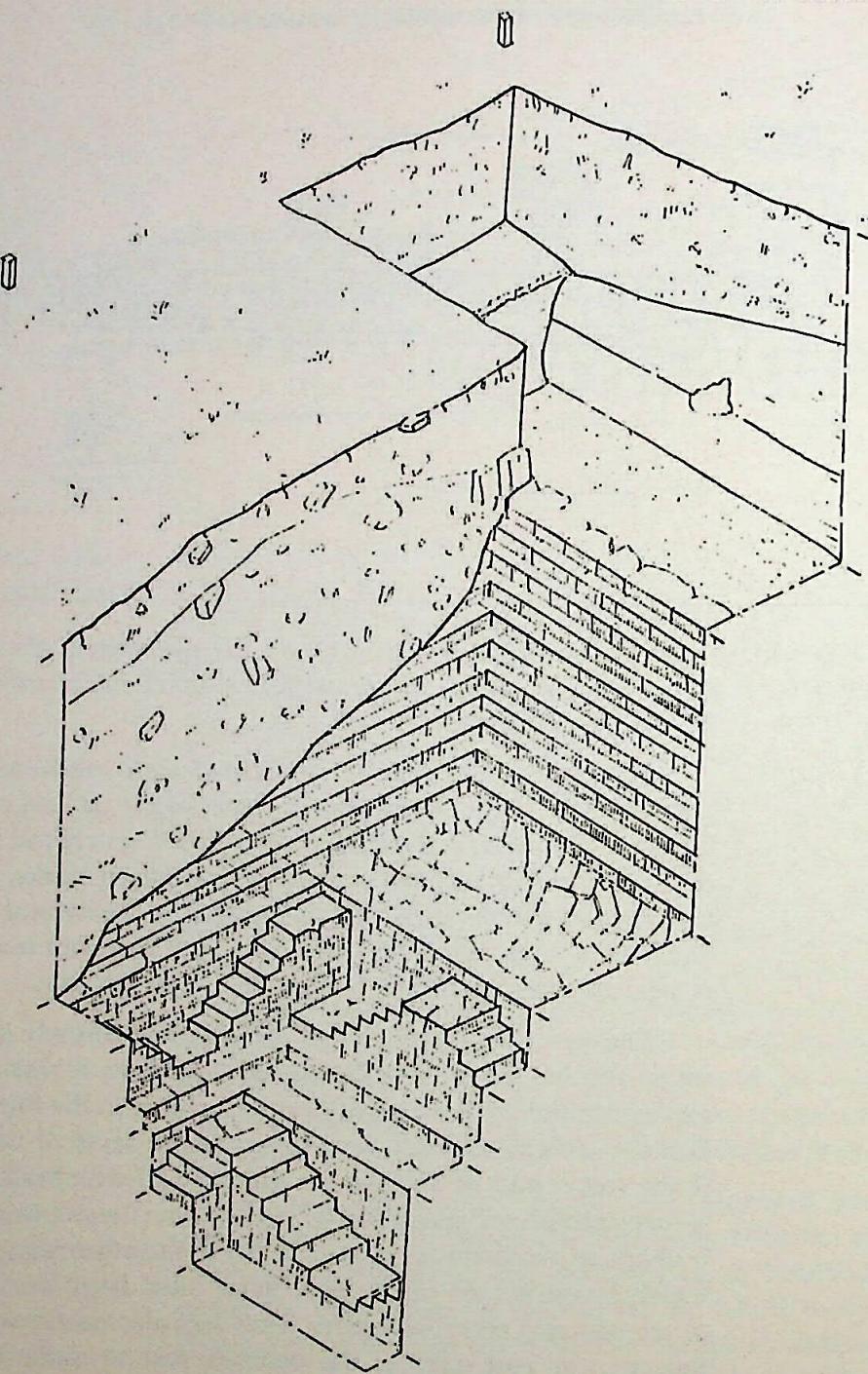
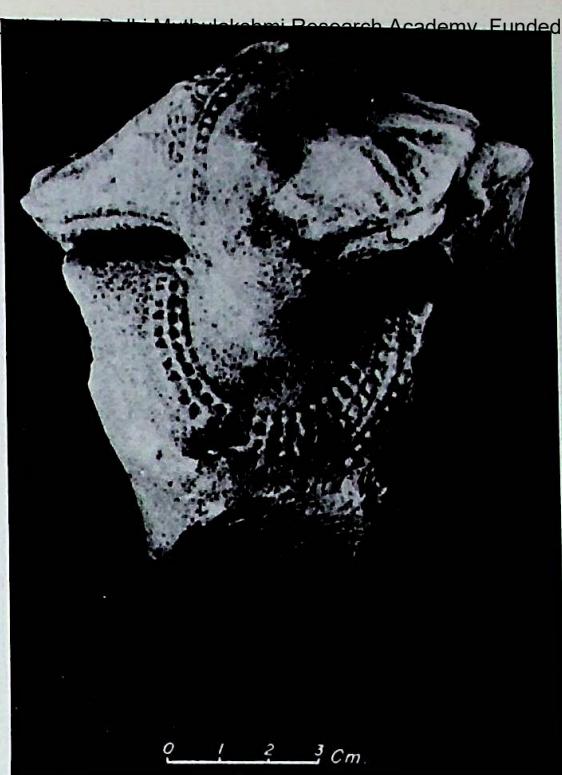
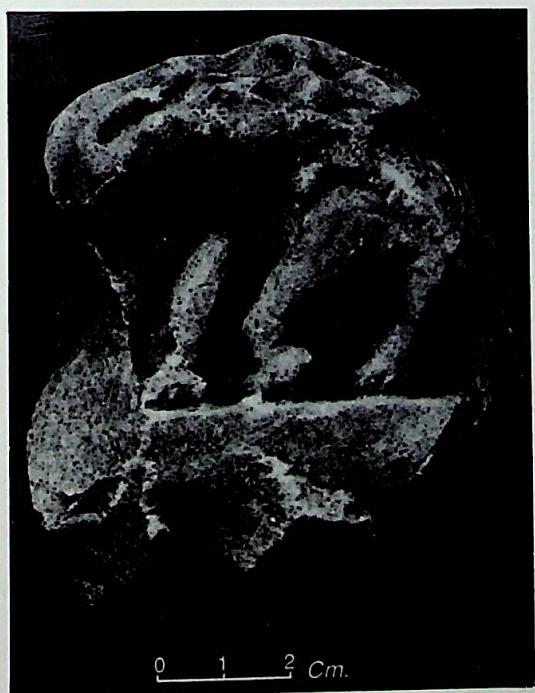


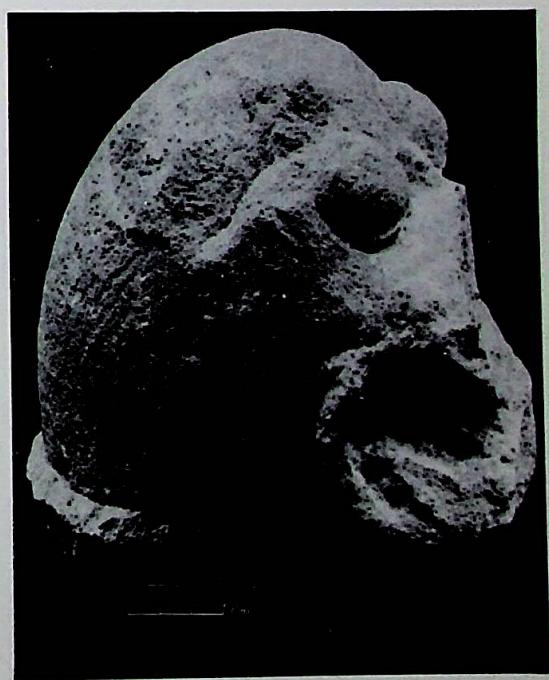
Fig.30. Lal Kot 1994-95: Pictorial view of partly exposed north-eastern corner of Anang Tal



Pl. 86. Lal Kot 1991-92: Stone Varāha, Period I, recovered from levels of Period II.



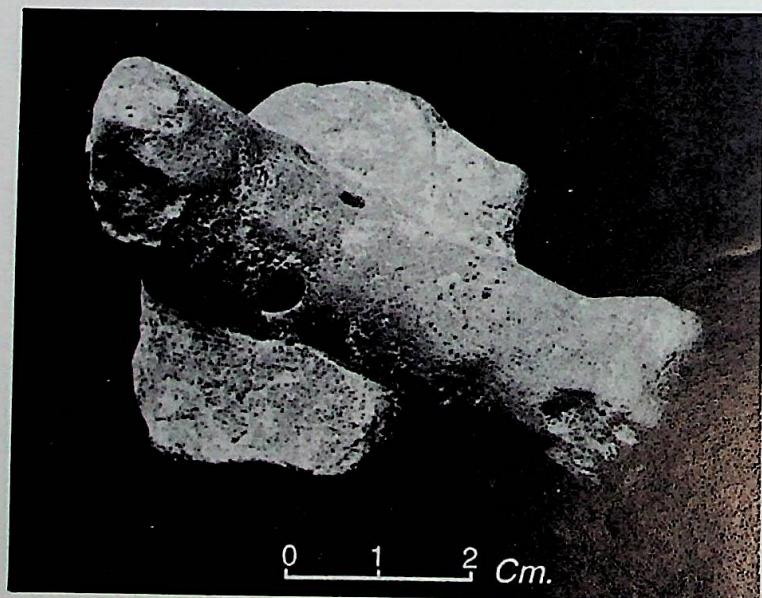
Pl. 87. Lal Kot 1992-93: Stone elephant, Period I, recovered from levels of Period II.



Pl. 88. Lal Kot 1991-92: Stone head of lion, Period I, recovered from levels of Period II.



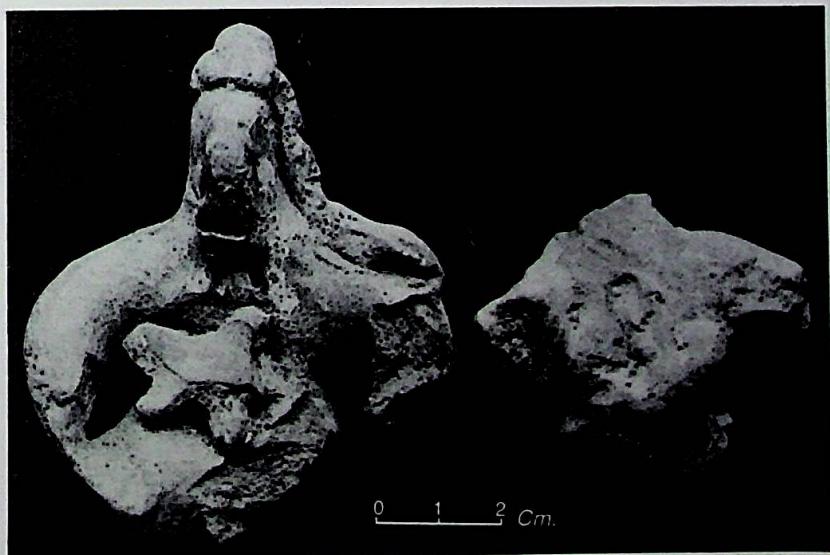
Pl. 89. Lal Kot 1992-93: Stone mithuna figures, Period I, recovered from levels of Period II.



Pl. 90. Lal Kot 1992-93: Terracotta whistle, Period II.



Pl. 91. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period I, recovered from levels of Period II.



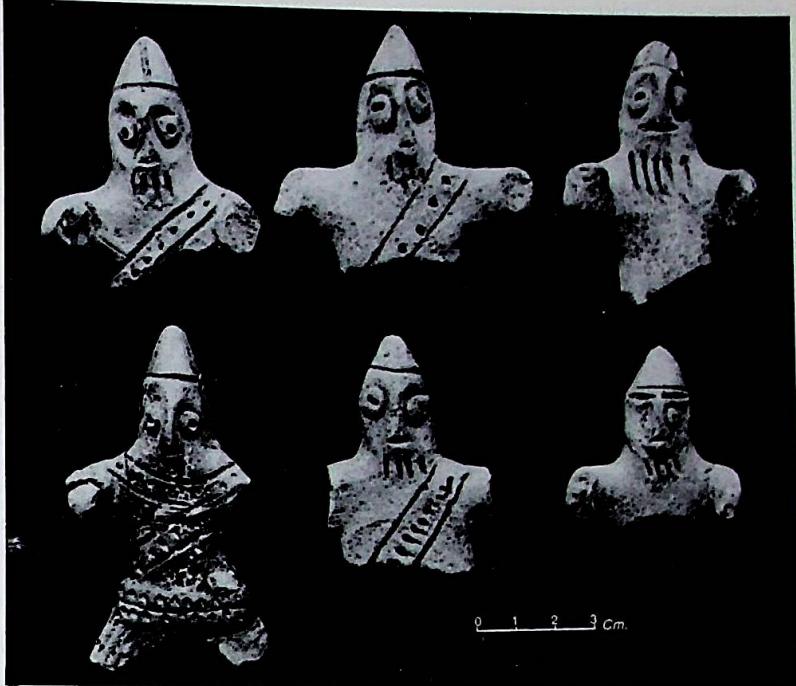
Pl. 92. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period I, recovered from levels of Period II.



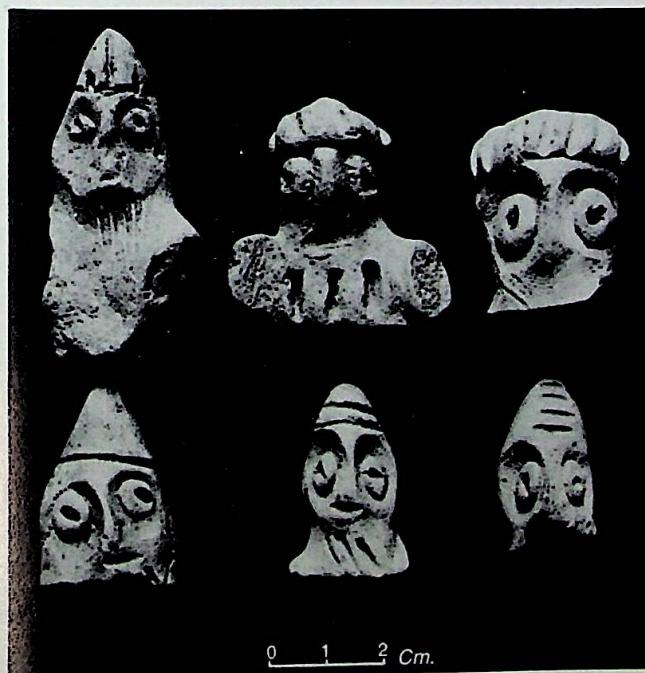
Pl. 93. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period II.



Pl. 94. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period II.



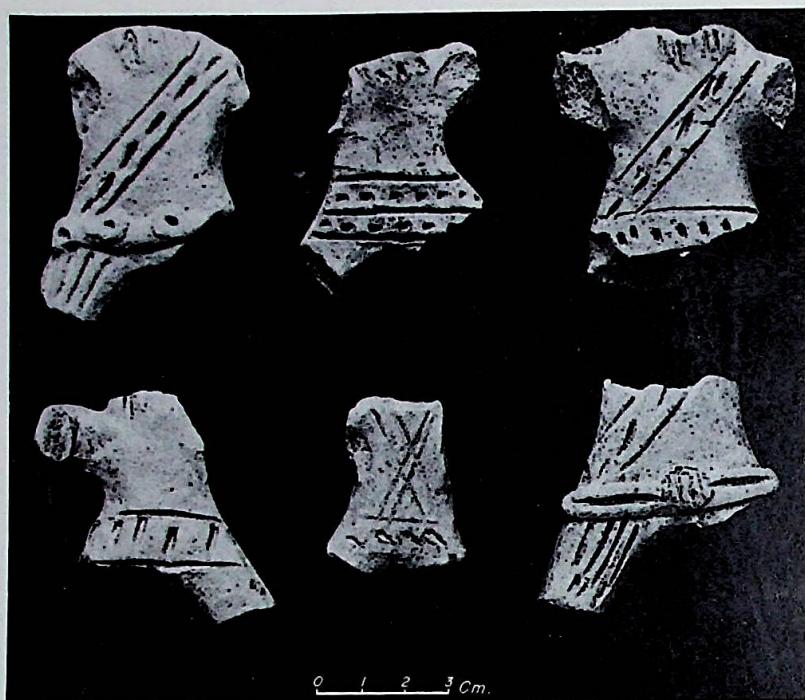
Pl. 95. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period II.



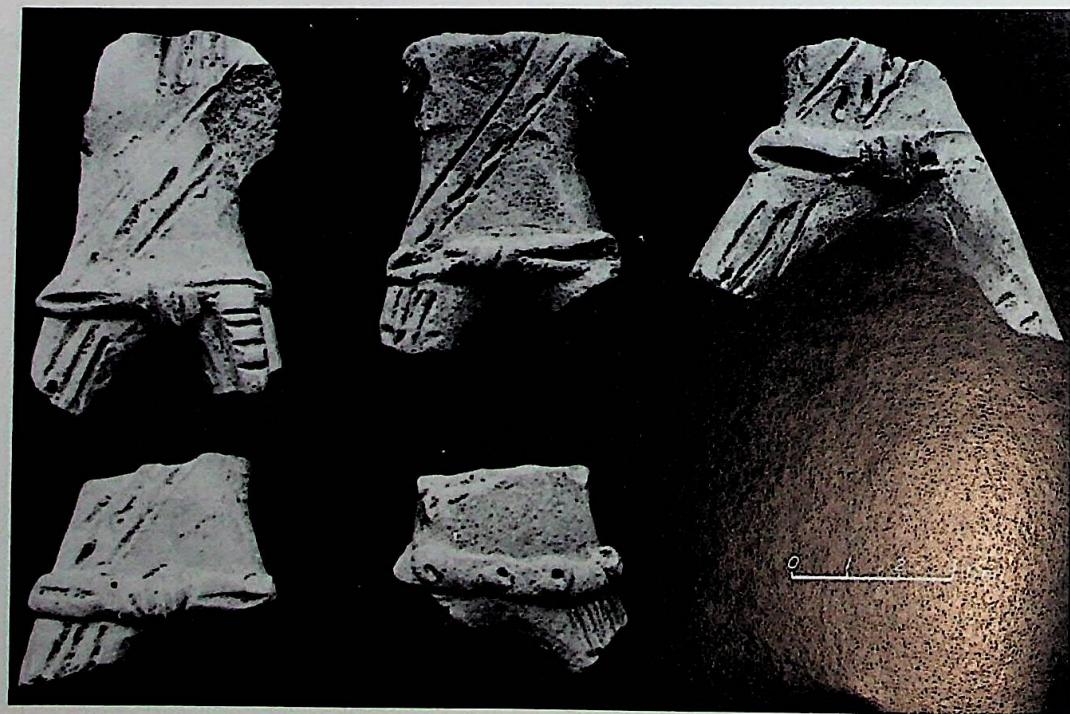
Pl. 96. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period II.



Pl. 97. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period II.



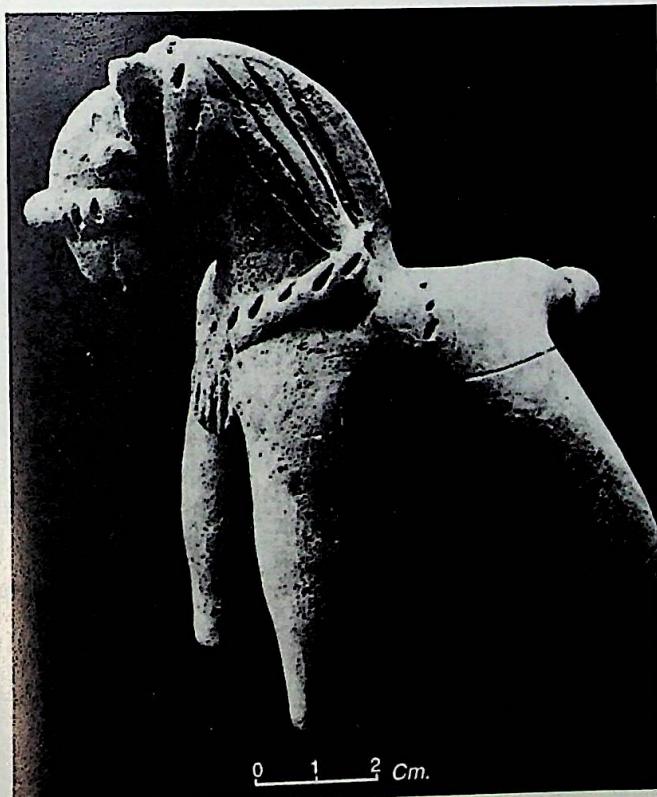
Pl. 98. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period II.



Pl. 99. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta human figurines, Period II.



Pl. 100. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta animal figurines, Period II.



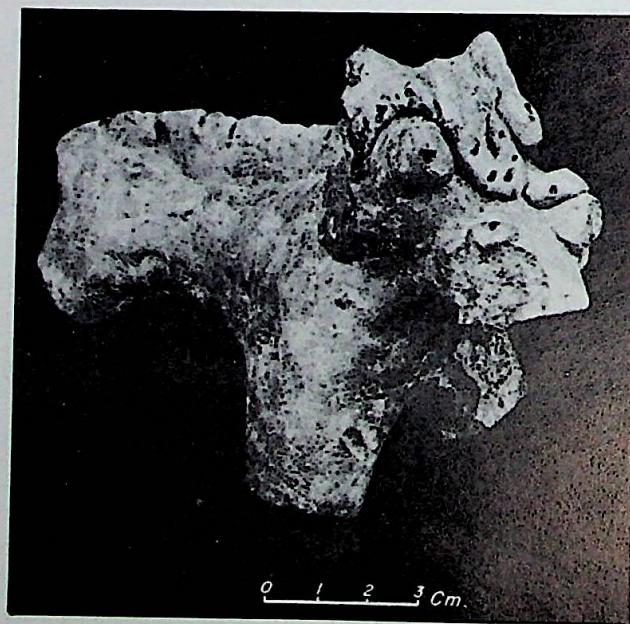
Pl. 101. Lal Kot 1992-93: Terracotta horse, Period II.



Pl. 102. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta monkeys, Period II.



Pl. 103. Lal Kot 1992-95: Terracotta horses
Period II.



Pl. 104. Lal Kot 1991-92: Terracotta elephant, Period II.

downwards up to the second landing (Pl. 82). The second landing is much wider in east than in the northern side. These steps are made out of fully dressed rectangular stone blocks having mason marks of bow and arrow or triangle and strengthened by iron clamps. They have the rise and tread of about 15 to 25 cm with a total height of about 2.40 m. To know further features of the tank from the north-east corner, quadrant 3 of square N1 with the mid baulk and quadrants 3 and 4 of square P1 were put to excavations. Digging operation was difficult and time consuming because huge stone blocks displaced from the tank and other structures of the surrounding area had fallen inside the tank. They were removed and very interesting features of the lower part of the tank were noticed (Fig. 30). For increasing the volume of the tank, for safe and easy landing and descent and to break the monotony of structure by minimising construction work and beautifying it, six pyramidal steps are provided in different series in northern as well as eastern sides in different levels (Pl. 83). These pyramidal steps were exposed between stage 2 and up to stage 4 beyond which no space was left in the trench to go further down. Between stages 3 and 4, a third less wider landing was noticed in the eastern side. Landing platforms of stages 2 and 3 have floors made out of stone slabs of various sizes. Since nothing much of stratigraphical importance is expected in the debris of the tank, further trenches can be opened and debris should be cleared in future to fully expose the important tank. It is a well known fact that the area towards east of the tank, which is the Qutb Archaeological Area, was full of a number of Brahmanical and Jaina temples during the Tomar-Chauhan rule and therefore the tank might have also been under use of the worshippers. This is explained by the beautiful construction of flight of steps leading towards east and north sides of the tank.

The total excavated parts of the Anang Tal in the four seasons' work suggest that the top plan of the tank was not a perfect square or rectangle but somewhat oblong on plan which is because of the construction of the Anang Tal following the original lower contours of the area. It also suggests that the main entrance into the tank was probably from the south side as the steps were provided from the top in this side.

The remarkable feature of the tank was the presence of incised mason-marks on the semi-dressed and dressed stone blocks and slabs which were used in the construction of the reservoir. Amongst the mason-marks the symbols of *swastika*, trident, circle divided into four parts, drum, numbers, letters, scorpion and bow-and-arrow are found which resemble such mason-marks as found in the temple of Bhojpur (M.P.) of the same period and also on the reused stone

slabs in the Quwwatul Islam mosque near Qutb. The name *Pinasi* is also found in *Nāgari* characters on one of the stone blocks. But the mason-marks *Swastika*, bow-and-arrow and trident are frequently used. These evidences clearly suggest that the tank was originally constructed in the middle of the eleventh century A.D., most probably by Anang Pal II, the Tomar ruler who is also credited to have inhabited the first city of Delhi around his citadel of Lal Kot. Further excavations at the lower levels are required for study of any contemporary material of Period I having been accumulated into the reservoir at the lowest level as well as to know the full plan of the Anang Tal.

The entire area of the Anang Tal was put to Geo-Radar survey which was carried out jointly by the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee and the Archaeological Survey of India with the help of Ground Penetrating Radar or Geo-Radar (Pl. 9). The idea was to introduce non-destructive scientific methods in exploration and excavation for the study of hidden structures covered under accumulated debris and deposits. Electro-magnetic rays were transmitted deep into the earth and return signals were recorded for putting forth to the computers for getting the details of the buried structures including their plan.

The site of Lal Kot has revealed a sequence of only two cultural periods, the main authors of each of which belonged of two distinct socio-cultural systems and followed different religions, customs and traditions. Literary, epigraphical and other historical sources contain enough data about this. Antiquarian remains found from excavations at Lal Kot focus further light on this aspect and provide further evidence and details on changing aspects of material culture during late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries A.D. when the political supremacy of the traditional Rajput rulers came to an end in north India and its place was taken over by Turkish Sultans who promulgated Islam and strengthened its roots in India. While antiquities and pottery recovered from Period I or the Rajput period represent culture and tradition of Brahmanical and Jaina settlement of the Rajputs, the material of Period II or early Sultanate period shows an abrupt change which on one hand ends several traditions and on the other introduces new ones. Such changing aspects also point to the fact that the site represents the citadel part within the fort which was occupied in both the periods by the populations consisting of two different socio-religious orders and in both the periods there was no mix population at the site. Another important aspect brought to light after the excavations is that the foreigners who settled at the site towards the close of the twelfth century had to follow certain cultural components in different walks of life which already existed there with new additions and alterations. The

changes brought by them, in due course, became part and parcel of the life style along with many aspects of earlier traditions. This is reflected in different phases of Period II. Cultural impact due to increased political and economic contacts with neighbouring countries of Middle-East, Central Asia and China gradually lost its identity as the material culture of the country absorbed those traits.

The excavations at Lal Kot are important also in the sense that structural details of palatial complexes of Mamluk phase of the history of Delhi Sultanate have been exposed for the first time. A detailed study of pottery and antiquities recovered from excavations in their proper stratigraphical context definitely helps in formulating dividing lines between cultural assemblage of different phases of Rajput and early Sultanate periods and factual analysis of the archaeological material focuses light on the socio-economic and cultural elements of the history of the period. The large number of antiquities and variety of shapes and types of ceramics recovered from the excavations in their proper stratigraphical context have made the site as index-site of early medieval period for identity and chronological sequence of the material.

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33. Hobson, R. L., *Chinese Art*, London 1952, p. 16.
34. Faunal remains have been studied by U.C. Chattopadhyaya of the Department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Allahabad.

Medieval Sites : Archaeological Investigations

Monuments and archaeological sites in Delhi have attracted attention of scholars, archaeologists, travellers and British officers long back. During the first half of the nineteenth century monuments in and around Qutb were repaired as per existing norms of the time. In the second half of the nineteenth century Beglar excavated some area around the place, particularly towards west of the Quwwatul Islam mosque and discovered remnants of early Sultanate period. However, details of his excavations are not known. Maulvi Zafar Hasan under J.A. Page surveyed and enlisted more than 1,300 monuments of Delhi in the first quarter of the present century. Thus, a need was felt by the archaeologists to excavate a few sites in Delhi to substantiate the archaeological evidence of architectural marvels of seven cities of Delhi with their contemporary material culture. A beginning was made by Hilary Waddington, the then Assistant Superintendent in charge of the Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1944-45 to map and explore the seven cities and in the process he excavated Adilabad fort.

Of late, a number of archaeological sites were explored and some of them partly excavated. We have already mentioned about the early sites. Important medieval sites where archaeological investigations have been carried out are described in the following pages.

Anangpur Fort

The fort (Pls. 108-14) of Anangpur (lat. 28° 27' 40" N, long. 77° 15' 30" E) in Faridabad district of Haryana is located towards west of the village of the same name in its close vicinity on the hillock on the eastern slopes of which is located the old habitational area of the township which has considerably increased in the present century along with hundreds of modern constructions all around.

The village is situated 30 km south of Delhi and 5 km south-west of Surjkund on the quartzite tableland of Aravallis in its Tughlaqabad-Gurgaon stretch with an average height of about 234 m above mean sea level.

Although the fort was noticed by Carr Stephen¹ in the last century and by other archaeologists, but neither any details were recorded by them nor any description was published even in the subsequent period when archaeological investigations were undertaken in the area. Archaeologists were mostly fascinated by the Surjkund and Anangpur dam, located in the vicinity and which were declared as protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India in the beginning of the present century.

A palaeolithic site towards south of Anangpur village was discovered in 1986 and subsequently extensive prehistoric investigations were conducted in the area in 1991 and 1992 by the Archaeological Survey of India as described earlier. In December, 1992 the village area and adjoining hillock having remains of ancient fortifications and structures of its citadel were explored by the author and Ram Saran and I.D. Dwivedi along with their teams of the Archaeological Survey of India.²

Anangpur, also called Anekpur or Arangpur, was inhabited by Anang Pal of the Tomar dynasty. There were definitely two and possibly three rulers of the same name in dynastic history of the Tomars. Anang Pal II constructed the Lal Kot and inhabited the first city of Delhi in between A.D. 1052 and 1060³. Thus, it seems that Anangpur was either founded by Anang Pal II or if earlier than him, most probably by Anang Pal I. Cunningham⁴ has cited the opinion of Sir Syed Ahmed about the foundation of Anangpur in Samvat 733 (A.D. 676) by Anang Pal I, but according to him the above date seems to be in the Valabhī era of A.D. 318 and thus the foundation of Anangpur, as per his view, seems to have taken place in A.D. 1051 (733+318) by Anang Pal II who also founded Delhi in the same year. Recent views attribute the date of Anang Pal I from A.D. 736 to 754⁵.

The exploratory survey of the site and study of architectural features do not help much to come to the conclusion about the date of construction of the fort and the period of its occupation in the seventh-eight centuries A.D. as the data collected are quite insufficient and only archaeological excavation of the fort would shed light on this dark chapter of the Rajput history of Delhi and its neighbourhood. Since Anang Pal II constructed Lal Kot and peopled Delhi in the middle of the eleventh century A.D., the question arises about the location of habitat and seat of administration of the Tomar rulers of Delhi who preceded Anang Pal II. It is, therefore, quite

PLAN OF WESTERN WALL OF ANANGPUR FORT
DISTT. FARIDABAD.(HARYANA)

(NOT TO SCALE)

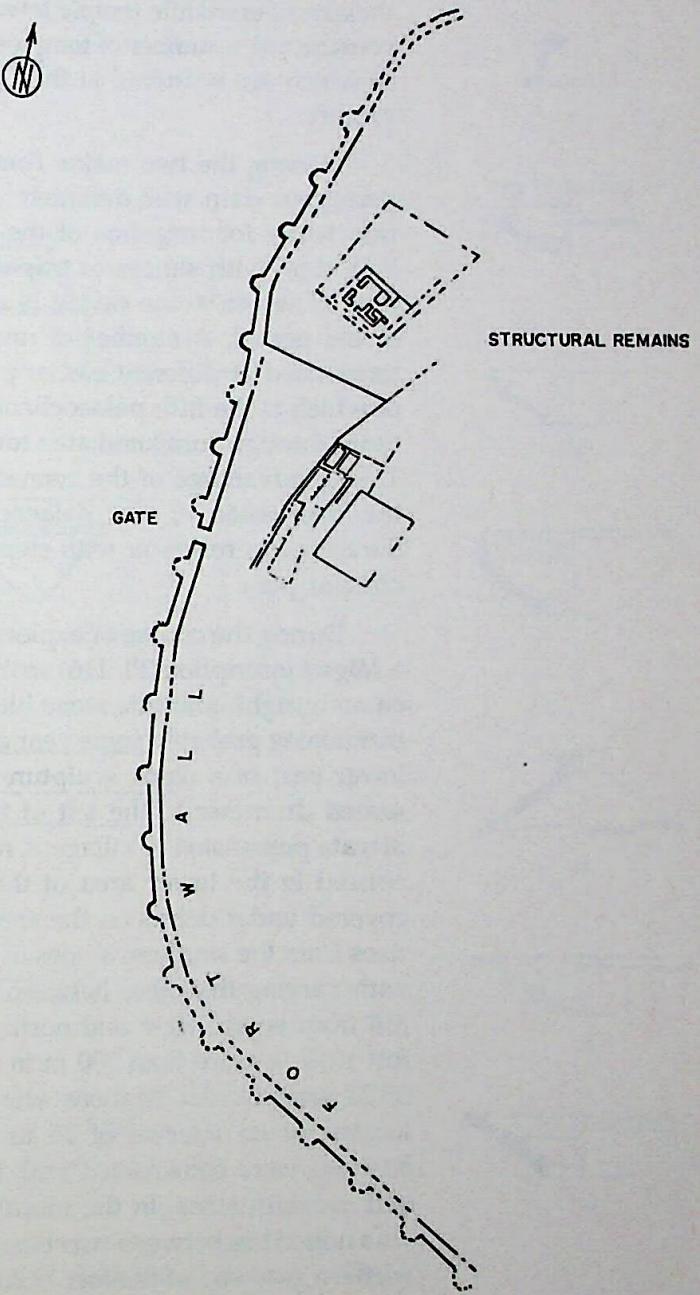


Fig.31. Plan of western wall
of Anangpur Fort

logical and traditionally accepted that the Tomars who had the status of feudatory rulers under Pratihāras in the beginning had settled in the Aravallis, most probably at Anangpur in the eighth century and continued there till they became fully independent rulers in the eleventh century A.D. when they shifted their royal seat to Lal Kot and founded a new city called Dhilli or Dhillikāpurī in the vicinity of erstwhile temple township of Yoginipura where they had constructed a number of temples, the ruined architectural fragments of which are scattered in the Qutb Archaeological Area and in its vicinity.

Among the two major Tomar Rajput monuments of the area, Anangpur dam was definitely constructed to block the upstream rain water for irrigation of the fields. About 50 m wide and 7 m high dam with sluices or trap-doors at its openings for controlled flow of water in the ravine is a well known architectural marvel of the period. A number of ravines in the hilly parts of the area terminated at different earlier palaeochannels of Yamuna, the last of which is the fifth palaeochannel which flowed in the prehistoric times through Surjkund area towards north-east of Anangpur dam. Taking advantage of the connecting internal drainage system and the depression of the palaeochannel, Tomars had constructed Surjkund, a reservoir with stepped stone embankment on a semi-circular plan.

During the course of exploration of the area in 1992, excepting a *Nāgari* inscription (Pl. 116) written in 5 lines within a square frame on an upright quartzite stone block standing vertically in the fields mentioning probably some year and numerals, not easily legible and lower part of a stone sculpture of ninth-tenth century showing a seated drummer to the left of the main broken figure (Pl. 115) in private possession of villagers, not much antiquarian remains were noticed in the lower area of the hill in the village. The fort wall covered under debris on the western side of the village, gradually rises from the southern slopes of the hillock and runs towards north with varying thickness between 3 to 4 m covering the crest of the hill from south, west and north sides. The length of the elliptical fort wall is more than 300 m in north-south orientation and traces of 21 semicircular bastions were noticed all along the wall each located at an interval of 15 to 16 m (Fig. 31). The rampart and bastions were constructed with local worked stone blocks of large and medium sizes. In the middle of the wall a gap of about 4 m was noticed in between two bastions which perhaps represents the western gateway of the fort. Some construction of rubble structures with thick lime plaster (Pl. 114) was noticed abutting the south-western part of the fort wall. Lime plaster was also found in the lower part of one of the bastions. Southern and western sides of

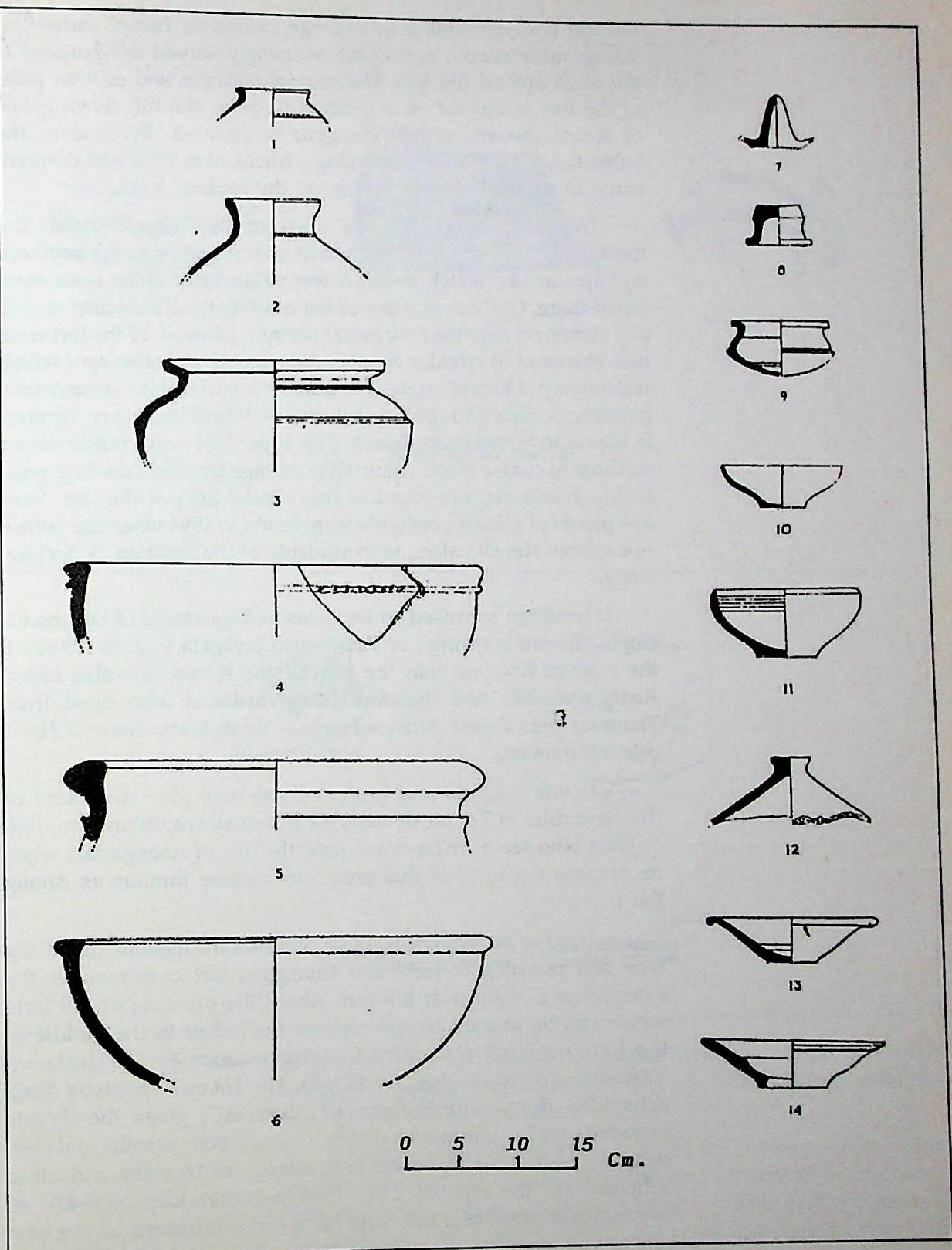


Fig.32. Kilokhari: Pottery

the fort wall overlook a deep gorge caused by heavy water-flow during rainy season and which seemingly served the purpose of the ditch around the fort. The area of northern and eastern sides of the fort is formed on a gradual slope of the hill down below of which the village of Anangpur is situated. Because of the habitational activities of the village, traces of eastern and northern walls of the fort are not visible on the surface level.

The two mounds on the crest of the hillock within the fortification, one at the northern end and the other at the southern end appear like watch posts. A few palaeolithic stone tools were found there. Outlines of some of the constructions including streets and chambers near the only extant western gateway of the fort were also observed. A circular copper coin was found at this spot which is definitely of Rajput origin. It has on obverse a rude representation, possibly of Śiva with bull and traces of *Nāgari* legend on reverse. It seems to be an early Tomar coin type. Red ware potsherds of medium to coarse fabric comprising storage jars, lids, cooking pots, basins, bowls etc. are found at this citadel area of the fort. Very few pieces of glazed potsherds were found in 1994 when the author re-explored the site along with students of the Institute of Archaeology.

It has been surmised on the basis of *Kuṭṭanimata* of Dāmodara Gupta, the prime minister of Vinayāditya Jayāpiṭa (c. A.D. 779-813), the ruler of Kashmir that the area of the Kurus was also called Anāṅga-pradeśa and therefore Harṣavardhana who ruled from Thanesar was called Anāṅga-Harṣa—"devaniketanamananāṅga Harse gate tridivalokam. . . ."⁶

Various legends and genealogical lists give the name of the first ruler of Tomar dynasty as Vilhaṇadeva, Bilandeva, Jājū or Jāula who seems to have acquired the title of Anāṅgapāla when he became the ruler of this area and became famous as Anang Pal I.

A number of Sanskrit texts on *Silpa-sāstra* mention about the type and planning of forts and Anangpur fort comes under the category of *Giri-durga* or hill fort. About the planning of hill forts which can be located on the crest of the hill or in the middle of the hills near hill (*Mānasāra*-Durganiveśanam-46; - *Viśvakarmā Vāstuśāstra*-dvādaśa-durgavidhīh-3). The *Nāradaśilpaśāstra* (Pañcachavidha durga nirmāṇakrama-Kathanam-7) gives the details including walls, gateways, watch posts, ditch, streets, palaces, temples, residences of nobles and storage of treasury and other articles. In the chapter 45 (Durga-prākārakalpanam-40) of *Samarāṅgana Sūtradhāra* hill forts have been described as the best among various categories of forts—"Sarvesāmeva durgāṇām Pārvatīyam

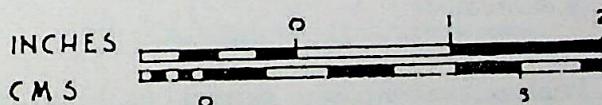
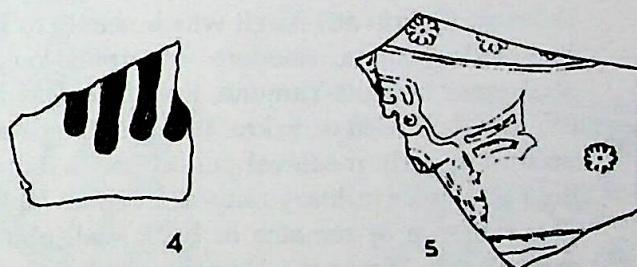
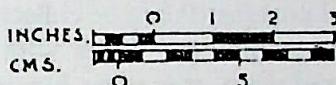
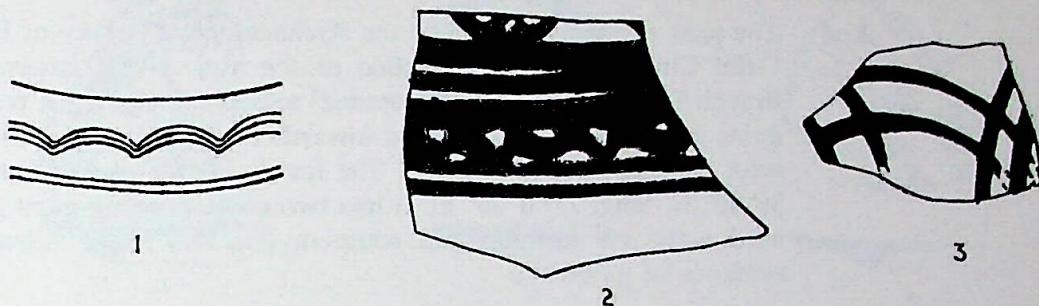


Fig.33. Kilokhari: Decorated sherds

praśasyate." The *Viśvakarmā Vāstuśāstra* (dvādaśa-durga-vidhih-4-5) while giving details of structures in a hill fort mentions about its facing towards east or north side.

Location of structures at the crest of the Anangpur fort on the eastern side and the orientation of fort and the streets at its citadel from north to south suggest that it faced towards east overlooking the valley in its front where a township flourished with rich agricultural fields in the midst of Aravalli ranges. Future excavations

may definitely throw important light on the architecture and archaeology of the area which may help in reconstructing the missing links of the Tomar history of the region.

Kot The joint exploration team of the Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Circle under the direction of the author and Excavation Branch-II under C.L. Suri discovered⁷ in September 1991 a rectangular mud fort (Pl. 117) located towards east of Najafgarh on the west bank of Najafgarh drain. The fort is known as Kot (lat. 28° 36' 20" N, long. 77° 0' 45" E). It has two corresponding gaps in its mud walls on northern and southern (Pl. 118) sides indicating evidence of gateways.

The inner central area of the fort does not seem to contain any remarkable habitational deposit, but all along the walls medieval postsherds can be collected from the inner side. Medieval red ware including a sherd with stamped design of sun, black painted red ware, grey ware, black slipped grey ware, glazed ware with sandy friable core and discs and hopscotches made out of them and other associated ceramics were collected. A sherd of Chinese celadon, terracotta ball and a glass bangle piece were also found. Towards north-west of the site is located the village Sakraoti (Śakrāvati) Nagli which seems to be a very early name like Indraprastha (modern Inderpat) or Śakrapura (modern Shakarpur in trans-Yamuna, East Delhi) and which also contains the name of Indra or Śakra. It is possible that this mud fort came up during early medieval period under Rajput rulers and served the purpose of military outpost even as late as Sultanate period. The evidence of remains of brick wall abutting it in the south-eastern side facing the Najafgarh drain suggests the possibility of brick strengthening of the fort wall at a later period, possibly during the Sultanate phase of history of Delhi. The correct picture about this interesting fortification could be possible only after it is excavated.

Lal Kot and Qila Rai Pithora

Trial excavations were carried out during 1957-58, 1958-59, and 1960-61⁸ by the North-western Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India under Y.D. Sharma to get precise information about the structures of fortifications of Lal Kot and Qila Rai Pithora and their associated antiquities. A trench to the north of Adham Khan's tomb was laid across the fort wall which possibly ran towards the Bhind gate but mentioned by the excavator as "running from Adham Khan's tomb to the Ranjit and Sohan gates and thus dividing Lal-Kot into two parts"⁹ provided the evidence of raising of its height during the Sultanate period by superimposition of kiln-burnt bricks on it, thirty courses of which were found. The lower portion having

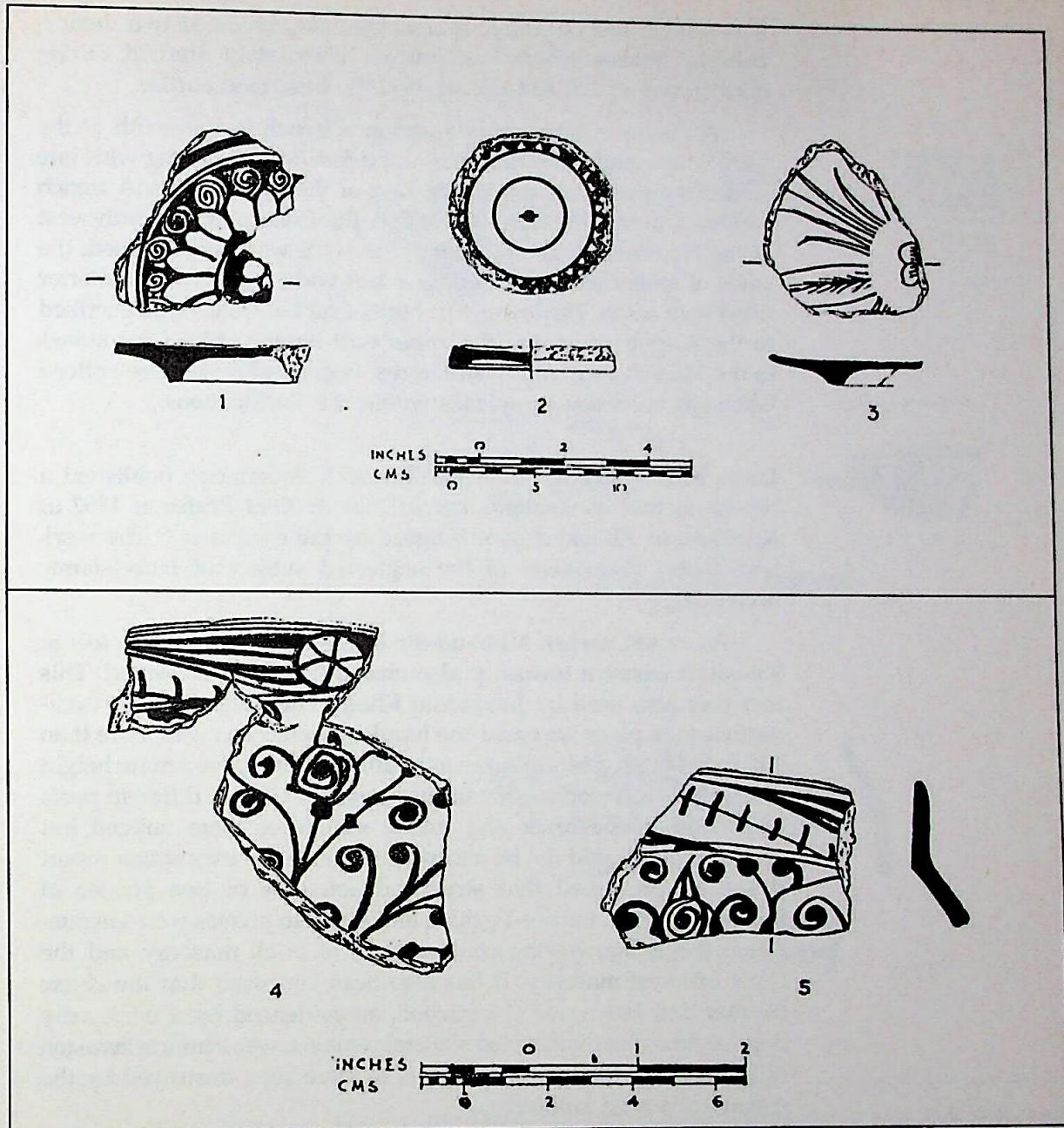


Fig.34. Kilokhari: Local glazed wares

the stonework can be attributed to the Rajputs and subsequent brickwork to the Muslim rulers of Delhi. A flight of steps leading to the top of the wall was exposed. It was further noticed that the regular brick face was concealed behind a freshly raised, elegant and impressive veneer of dressed local quartzite blocks at a later stage, possibly during the Sultanate period (Pls. 119, 120). On the basis of this evidence the excavator revised his view about the rubble wall and the brick revetment on its west which formed parts of the original planning and concluded that the dressed stone facing

was added later. Ceramic assemblage also revealed two distinct cultural phases which was further elaborately studied during excavations at Lal Kot during 1992-95, described earlier.

A medieval street was found in a trench to the south of the Qutb Minar and the outer face of the fortifications along with late structures were exposed to the east of the Qutb Minar. A trench was sunk across the ramparts of Qila Rai Pithora to the south-west of the Hodra-ka-Bagh and nearly 7 m wide wall was exposed, the sides of which were retained by a 1-m wide masonry and interior filled with earth. The lower part built of rubble stones was ascribed to the Rajput phase and the upper part having oblong cut stones to the Muslim rule. A few structures, floors and oven were noticed belonging to house complexes within the fortifications.

Kilokhari Jamia Millia Islamia Historical Research Foundation published a report on trial excavations carried out by Olaf Prufer in 1952 at Kilokhari or Khilokhri as mentioned by the excavator.¹⁰ The work was taken up in view of the neglected subject of Indo-Islamic archaeology.

As noted earlier, Muiz-ud-din Kaikubad constructed a fort at Kilokhari where a township also emerged during his period. This fort was also used by Jalaluddin Khalji. The mound where excavations took place was near the hamlet Jogabai and was more than 100 m in length and the same in width with an approximate height of nearly 6 m. Trenches of various sizes were laid in different parts of mound where brick and rubble structures were noticed but accurate plan could not be ascertained. From the excavation report it can be presumed that structural activities of two phases of Sultanate period, i.e. pre-Tughlaq and Tughlaq phases were encountered, the earlier having constructions of brick masonry and the latter of stone masonry. It has also been surmised that the cause of utter desolation and destruction, as evidenced by a thick ashy deposit mixed with unburied skeletal remains, was Timur's invasion of Delhi when the township seems to have been destroyed by the conqueror's wild soldiery.

It is quite clear from the excavation report that the ceramic assemblage of the site belongs to thirteenth and fourteenth centuries A.D. and they are akin to the assemblage of Period II at Lal Kot excavations (1992-95). Apart from glazed pottery, plain red ware (Fig. 32) comprising cooking vessels, water jars, small circular and lipped (heart-shaped) lamps; painted red ware having brownish or black paint on red surface bearing bands, wavy lines, criss-cross patterns or loops around bodies and rims; incised red ware following earlier tradition of pottery decorations and black slipped

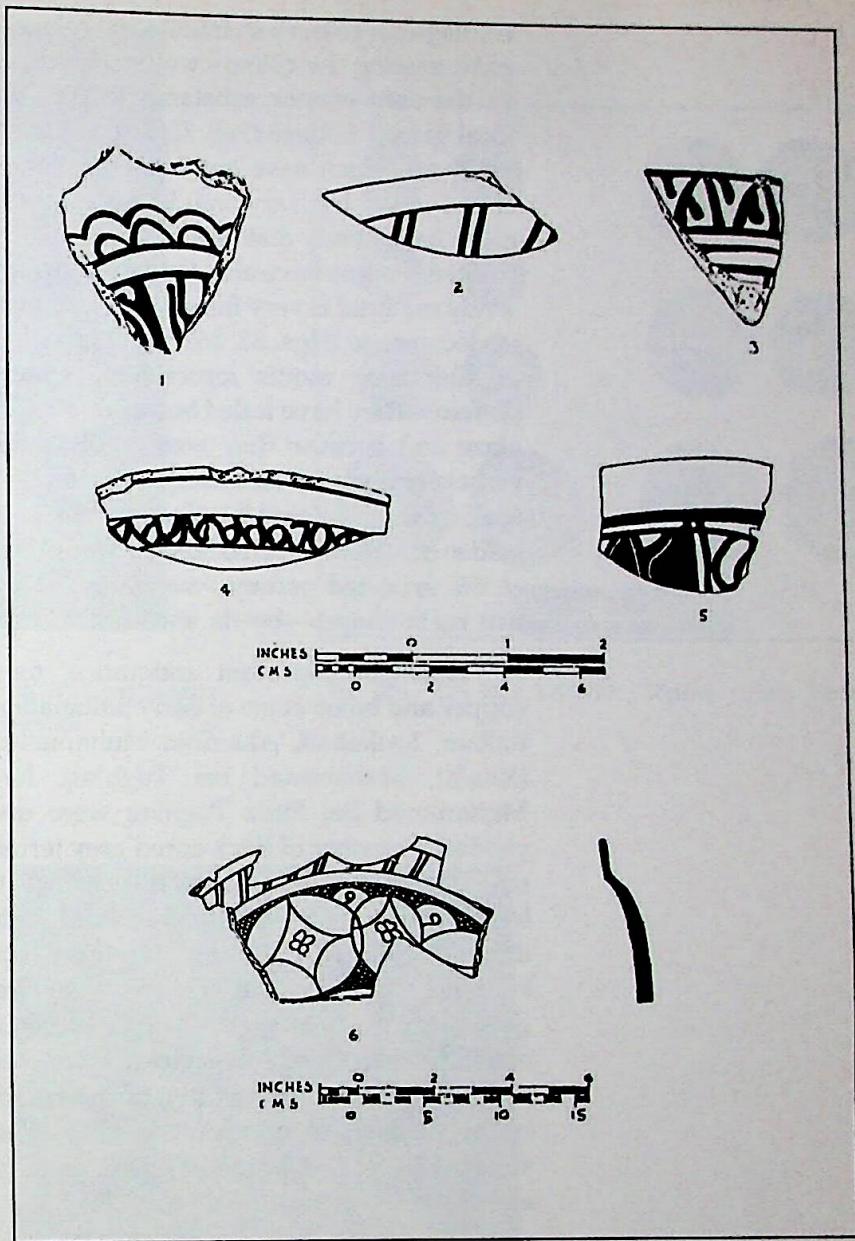


Fig.35. Kilokhari: Imported glazed wares

grey ware (black and grey wares) having thick and well levigated core with frequently incised or moulded rims were the important household ceramics (Fig. 33).

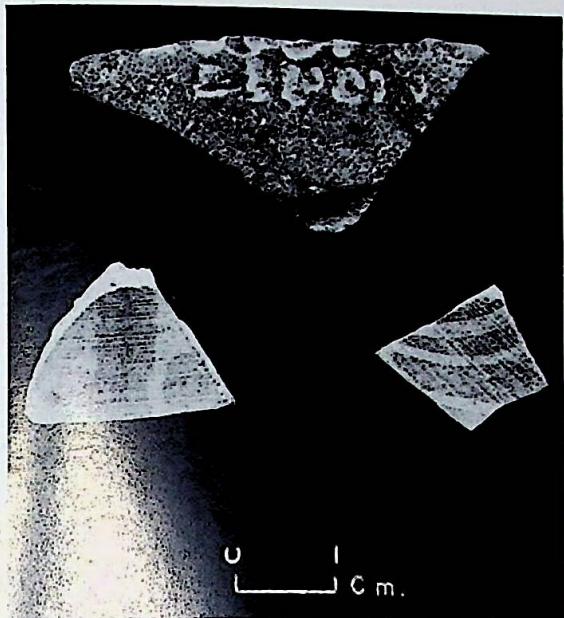
The excavator has classified the glazed pottery from the site into two groups of locally manufactured and imported ones. He asserts that those having coarse and sandy body which disintegrates into a kind of whitish sugary powder as soon as exposed to the air, having Chinese influence in the conception of floral designs and made in such a manner that the core was first covered with a white underglaze on which usually blue designs were painted and another

coating of a colourless translucent glaze was then applied over the paint making the colours well preserved and not getting soaked up by the very inferior substance of the core should be classified as local glazed pottery (Fig. 34). According to him the imported ones are those which have geometric patterns painted in black-on-white on the sandy but very well levigated core and in which the surface glaze has entirely disintegrated and disappeared and colours of the painted designs have also faded due to exposure. This greyish-white sandy material is very fine and delicate and has no tendency to flake or decompose (Figs. 35, 36). Their geometric patterns have squares of alternating motifs representing either stylised flower or leaf patterns. They have faded because of the disintegration of protective glaze and because they were applied directly on the core of the vessels and not on an underglaze which would have prevented the soaking up of colours.¹¹ A few fragments of lustered pottery having golden or silvery lustered surface were also found. The place of origin of the imported pottery was Iran or Iraq. The glazed pottery has two main shapes—bowls and dishes or plates, both on ring base.

Amongst important antiquities, mention must be made of copper and billon coins of early Sultanate rulers. Coins of Iltutmish, Balban, Kaikubad, Alauddin Muhammad Shah, Jalaluddin Firoz (Khalji), Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Firoz Shah Tughlaq and Muhammad bin Firoz Tughlaq were deciphered. Trenches also yielded a number of thick cored grey terracotta finials with incised, stamped or moulded decorations which the excavator has called bombs or flasks (Fig. 37). Other finds include terracotta and stone dabbers (Fig. 38), flat circular terracotta and stone gamesmen including those cut out of remains of broken glazed ware, green glass ware fragments, glass bangle pieces, cast copper pendant, iron nails, iron tube, iron leaf-shaped arrow-head, iron needles (Fig. 38) and spirals, terracotta votive tank, terracotta human figurine and terracotta animal figurines including those of dogs, sheep and a saddled horse and beads of glass, shell, carnelian, copper, crystal, amethyst, agate and terracotta (Fig. 39).

Siri Fort Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India under Raghbir Singh conducted small scale excavation in 1976-77 at Siri Fort, constructed by Alauddin Khalji in c. A.D. 1303 in order to expose the north-western bastion of the fortification wall, to trace the wall and to ascertain the contemporary habitational deposit or palace complex and its relationship with the fort wall.¹²

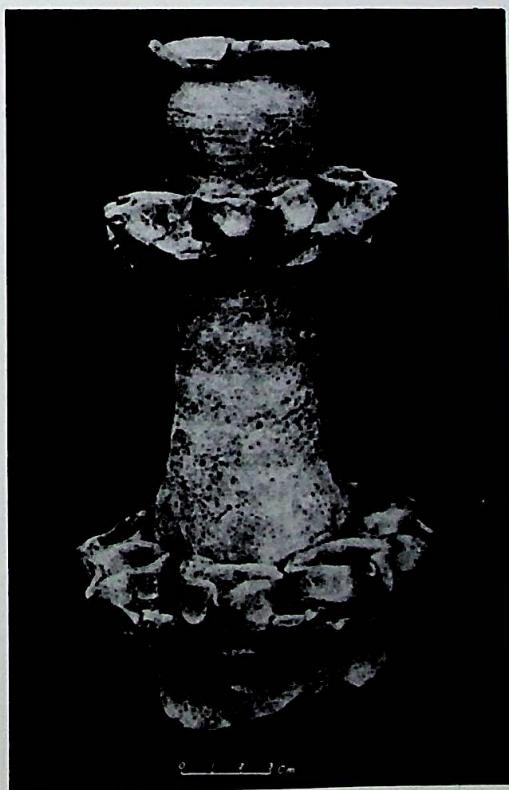
It was noticed that the fort wall was built of undressed rubbles laid in lime mortar and was oval on plan with bastions at regular intervals. A foundation of 2.50 m of rubbles set in mud mortar was



Pl. 105. Lal Kot 1991-92: PGW sherds and red ware fragments with a scale bar.



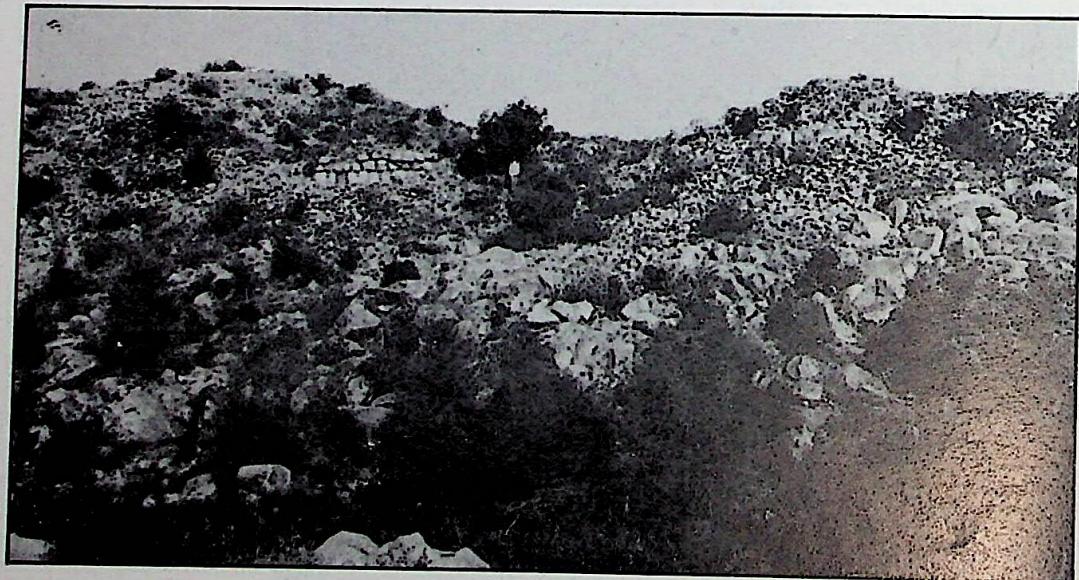
Pl. 106. Lal Kot 1991-92: Copper coins, Period II.



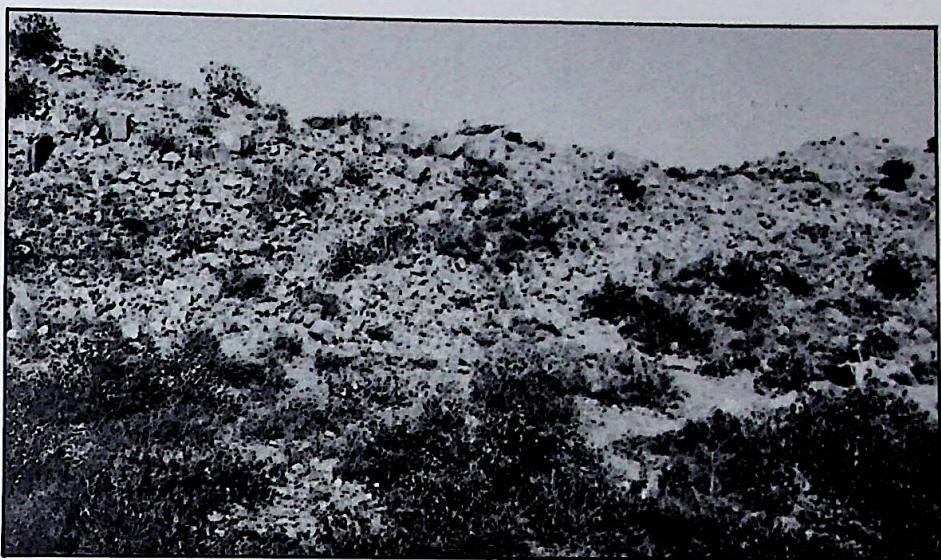
Pl. 107. Lal Kot 1991-92: Lamp stand, Period II.



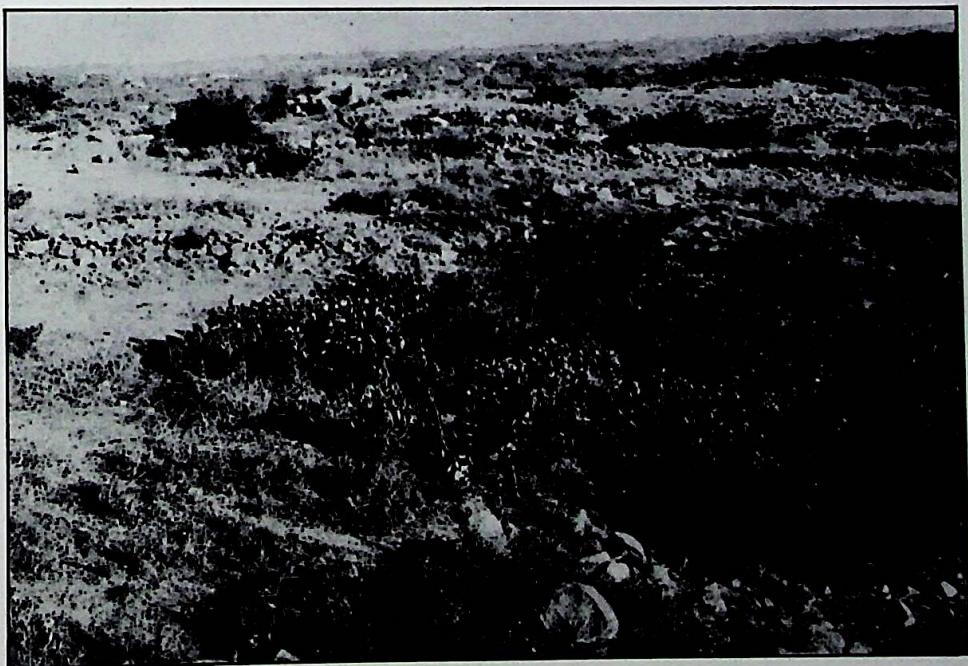
Pl. 108. Anangpur Fort: Walls and bastions, facing west.



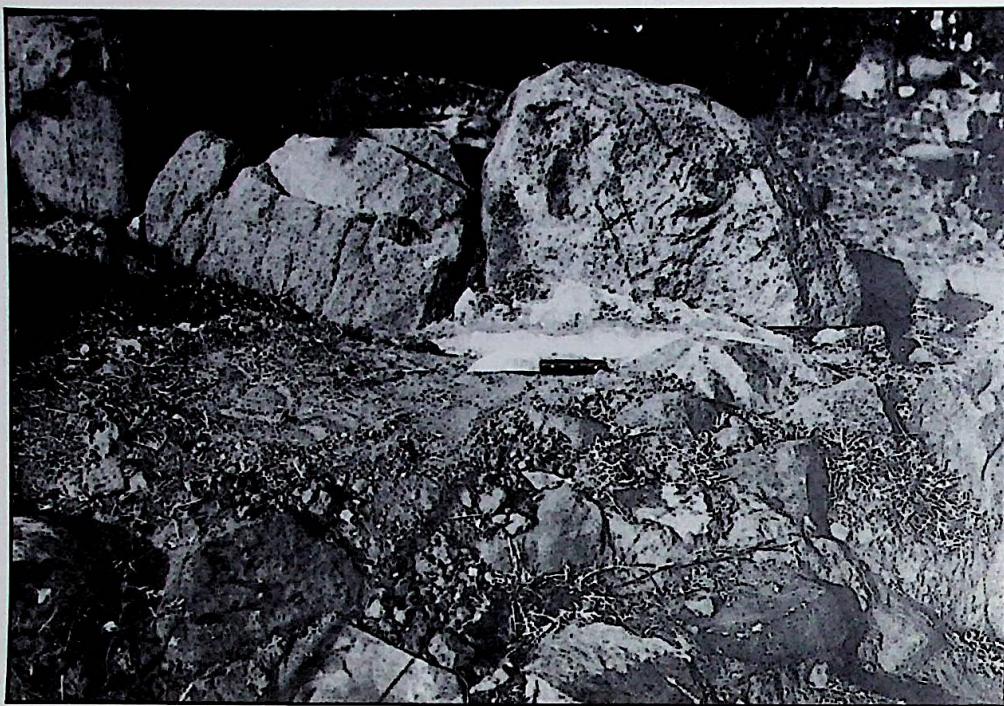
Pl. 109. Anangpur Fort: Walls and bastions, facing west.



Pl. 110. Anangpur Fort: Western gate and bastions.



Pl. 111. Anangpur Fort: Structures at the citadel.



Pl. 112. Anangpur Fort: Lime floor of southern bastion.



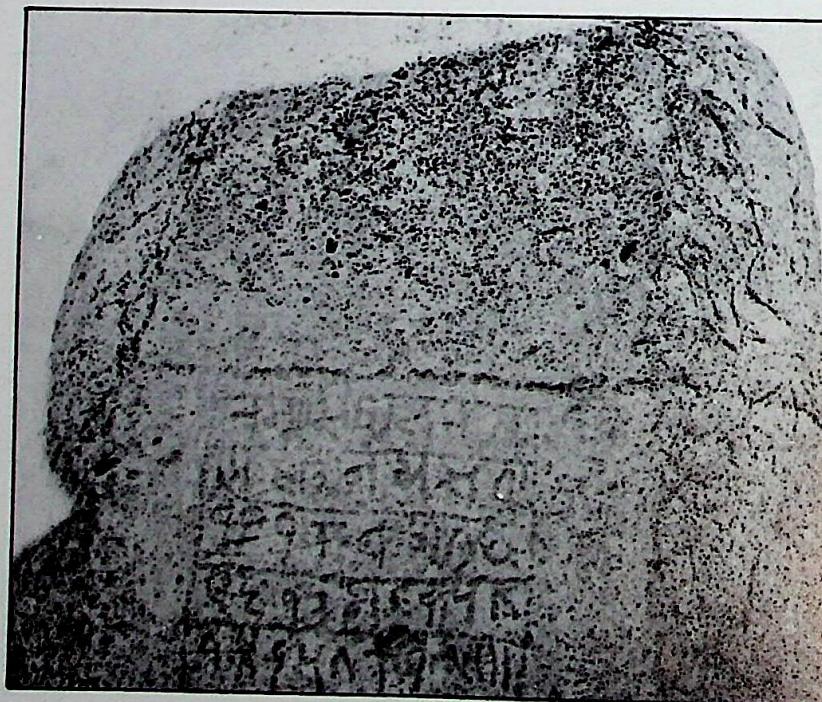
Pl. 113. Anangpur Fort : Lime plaster on a structure near southern bastion.



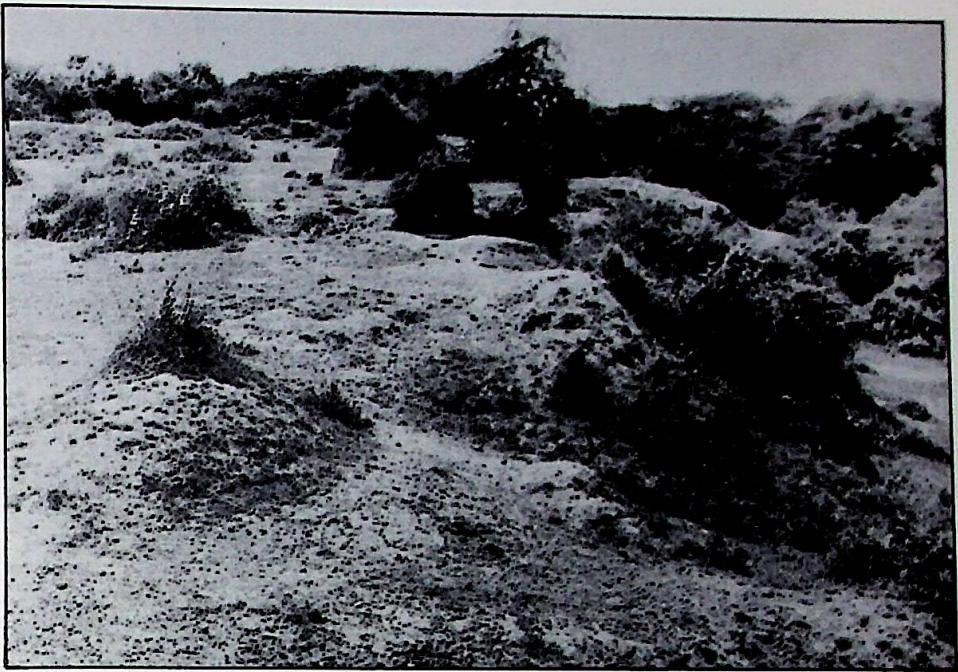
Pl. 114. Anangpur Fort: South-western wall.



Pl. 115. Anangpur: Broken sandstone sculpture, c. tenth century A.D.



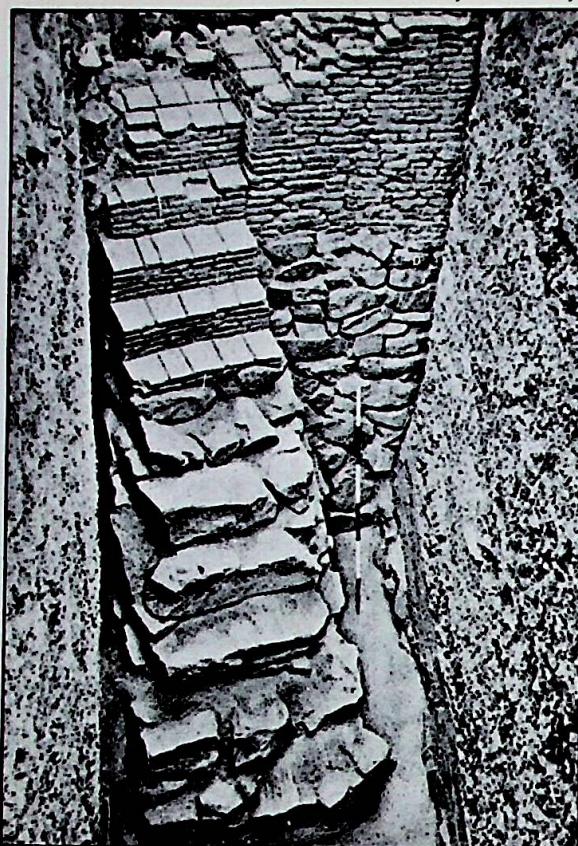
Pl. 116. Anangpur: Nāgarī inscription.



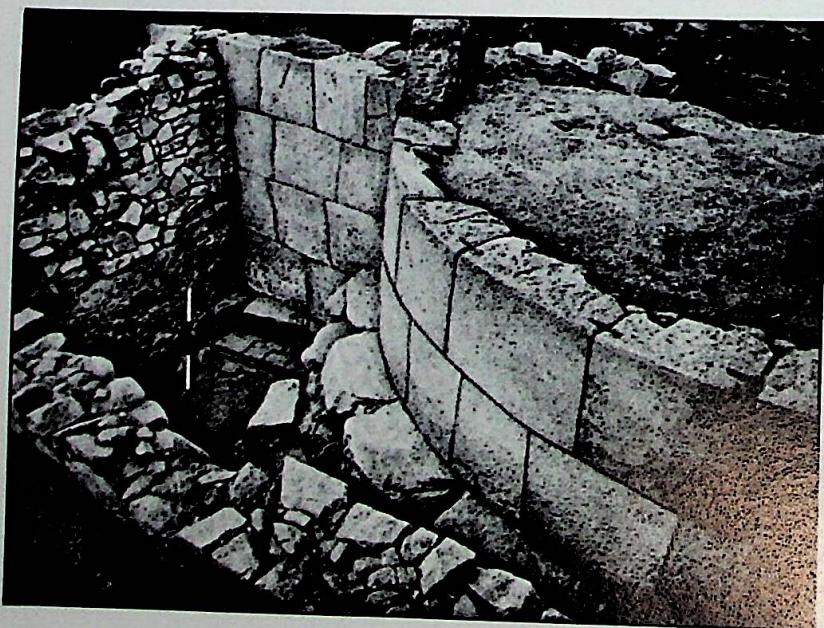
Pl. 117. Kot: General view of medieval mud fort.



Pl. 118. Kot: Southern gateway of the fort.



Pl. 119. Lal Kot 1957-58: Stone wall and steps with brick restoration.



Pl. 120. Lal Kot 1958-59: Semicircular bastion of the fort wall with dressed stone veneer.

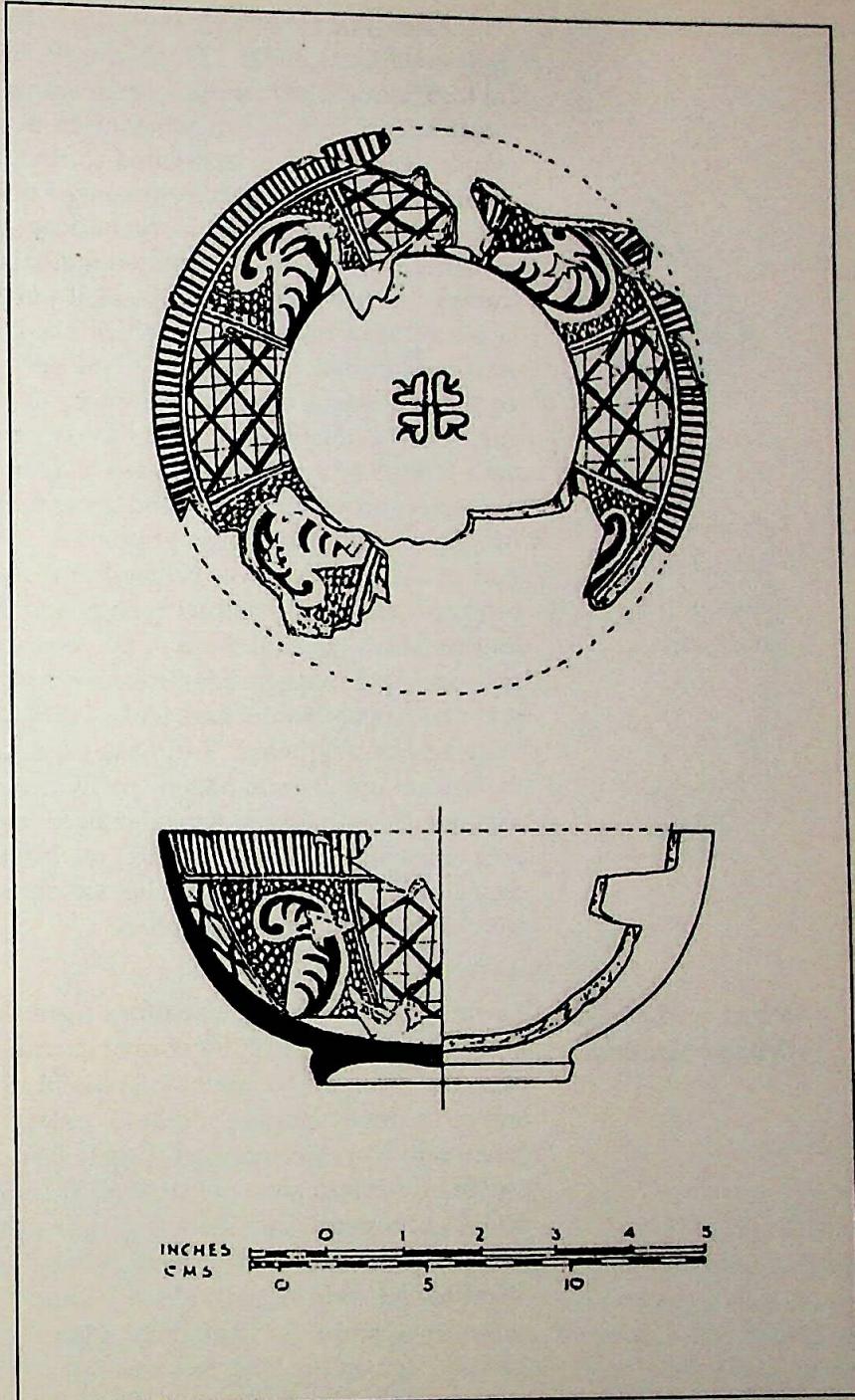


Fig.36. Kilokhari: Imported glazed ware

provided and above ground level the surface was plastered with lime mortar. The single culture occupational deposit yielded red ware and glazed ware besides coins, stone querns, balls and beads datable to the early fourteenth century A.D. The glazed pottery bear¹³ mainly geometrical paintings in black and yellow colour over white surface.

Earlier in 1973-74 North-western Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India under T.N. Khazanchi had carried out excavations at Makhdum Sahib's mosque, near Panch Sheel park towards southwest of Siri Fort. Six trenches of 10 m square, oriented in north-south direction were excavated to find out the stratigraphic relationship of certain structures exposed during debris-clearance with the mosque. A 3.50 m thick occupational deposit was noticed which was divided into four phases on the basis of structures, coins and ceramics ranging between A.D. 1300 and 1517.¹⁴ Phase I represented a platform, a cistern of baked bricks and a rubble wall running east-west and can be assigned to the period prior to the construction of the mosque. Ceramics included red ware vases with grooved rims, bowls, *handis*, iron nail and a copper ring and no glazed pottery was found. In the second phase a floor of brickbats and a drain was exposed which was found contemporary to the mosque. Pre-Mughal glazed pottery was found besides associated antiquities and pottery. The third phase belongs to the post-mosque phase when cells and enclosure wall with halls and rooms were added to the mosque. Local glazed ware in the form of red ware having glazed polish and paintings besides other associated antiquities were found. A copper coin of Bahrol Lodi (A.D. 1451-88) was also recovered from the levels of this phase. To Phase IV belongs a wall running along the cells in north-south alignment. Evidence of enlarging of the cells was noticed. A large rectangular oven was also found. Associated antiquities and pottery suggested the last phase of habitation. Eight copper coins of Sikander Lodi having dates of A.H. 902, 911 and 913 were also found from this phase.

Bijai Mandal (Vijaya Mandal)

Towards south of Siri, excavations were carried out at Bijai Mandal, a protected monument, by way of clearing the debris accumulated over the structural remains of possibly the famous Qasr-i-Hazar Sutun or the thousand pillared palace believed to have been constructed by Muhammad Tughlaq in c. A.D. 1325¹⁵ The work continued for four seasons, i.e. 1930-31, 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34. There is no doubt about the royal association of the buildings at Bijai Mandal during the early phase of Tughlaq rule, but its identification with Qasr-i-Hazar Sutun is still uncertain. On the authority of Barni and Ibn Batuta, a graphic description of the palace has been given by H.L. Srivastava¹⁶—“The pillars were made of varnished wood supporting a wooden roof, exquisitely painted: the hall was used for public audience, after prayers and at daybreak, for state functions and special ceremonies during the great religious festivals. It was here that Ibn Batuta, the famous African traveller, was received by Muhammad Tughlaq in 1341: he remained at the court of the Sultan up to 1347, and left us a graphic description of the Imperial Palace and the Qasr-i-Hazar Sutun. Batuta states

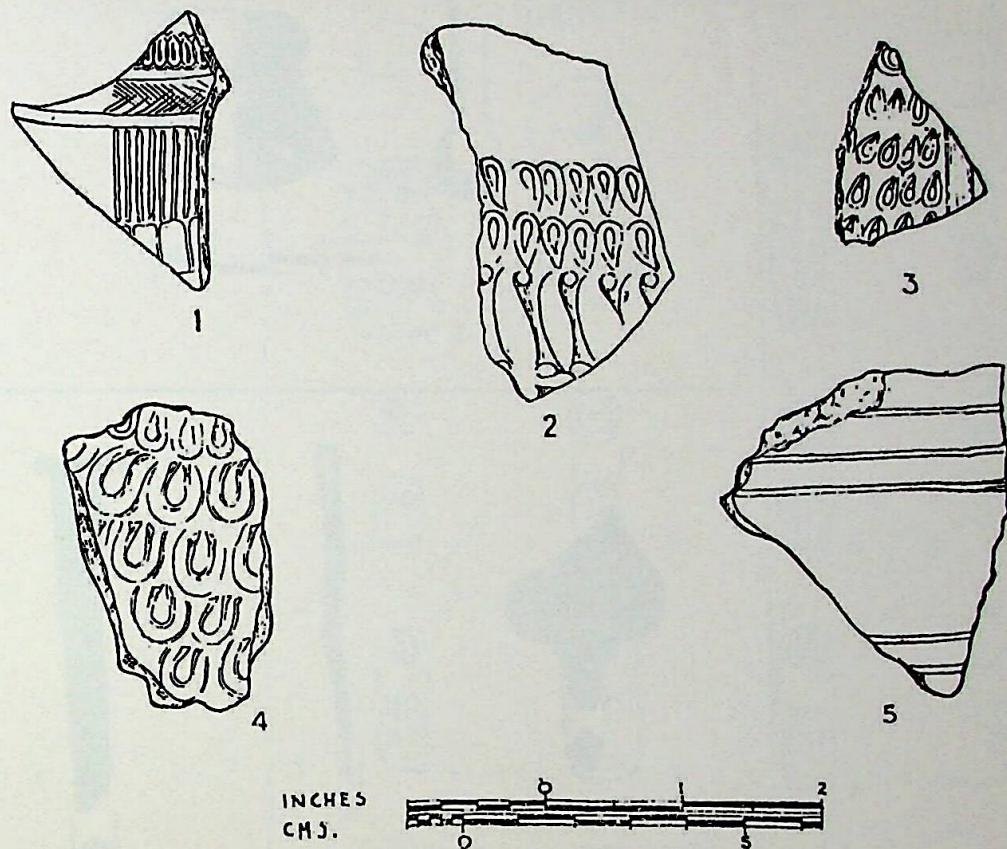


Fig.37. Kilokhari: "Bombs" which are finials

that the interior of the palace was approached by three gates in succession. At the first gate there were guards and trumpeters and flute players who announced the entrance of notable visitors. A place of execution was outside this gate. The second gate opened on a spacious hall of public audience and between this and the third gate there was a large platform where the principal mace-bearer (*naqibun-naqabā*) sat. The third gate opened into the celebrated Hall of Thousand pillars, and at the entrance sat certain clerks (*mutasaddis*) who checked everyone who passed through the doorway."

A large amount of accumulated debris was removed at Bijai Mandal even up to the thickness of more than 6 m. Structures of hammams, drains, cisterns, water reservoirs and others were

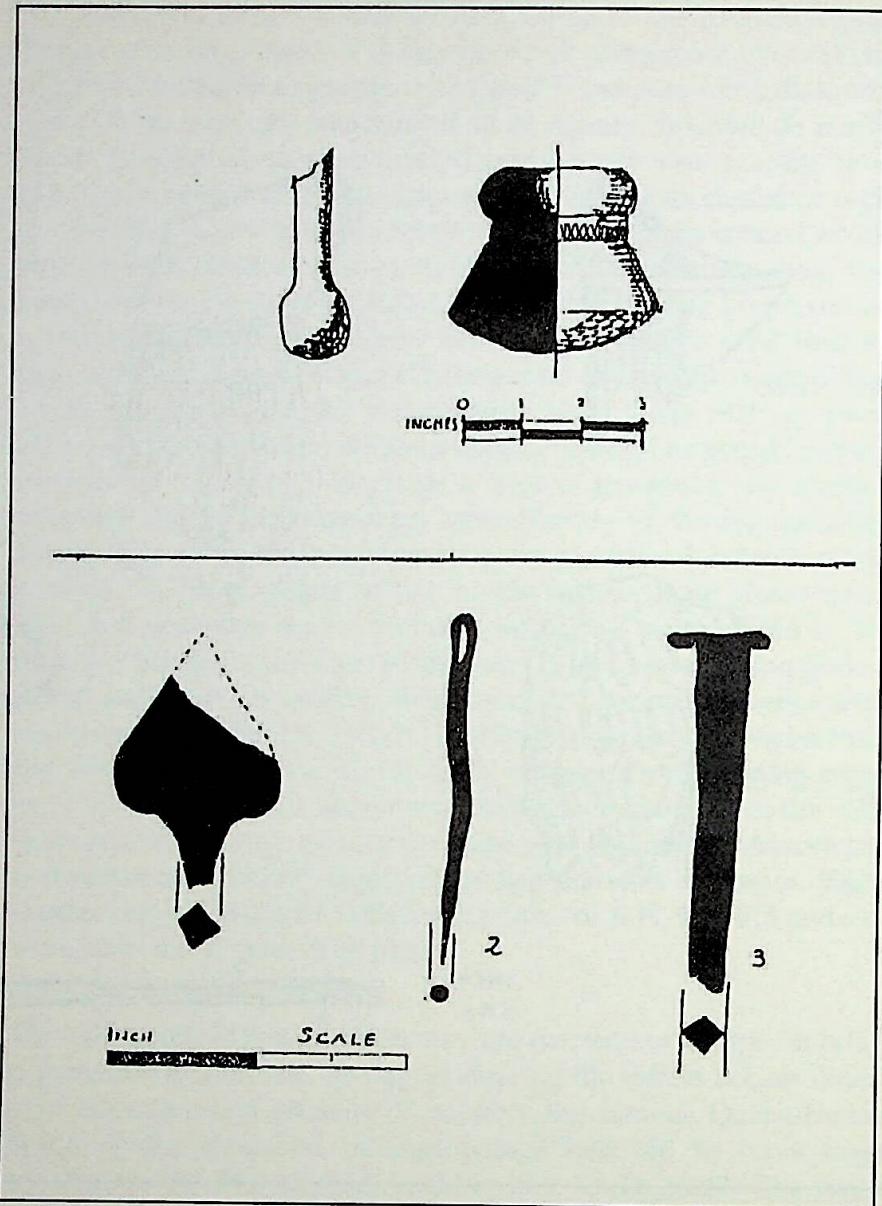


Fig.38. Kilokhari: Minor antiquities

exposed. Tiles as found at Iltutmish's tomb were also noticed on one of the cisterns. On the northern side rows of holes for insertion of wooden columns were found and in two of these holes iron dowels with sharp points were found. It was, thus, concluded that once there existed a large pillared hall, the upper structure and columns of which were of wood and the southern end of which was bordered by a well plastered wall of stone masonry.

In the central stone hall situated on the highest level of the site, two treasure wells were discovered from which pieces of ivory and porcelain, beads of glass, pearls, red coral, gold, ruby and other precious substances, stone balls, clay lamps and fragments of glazed multi-coloured pottery were found. Among 27 coins found

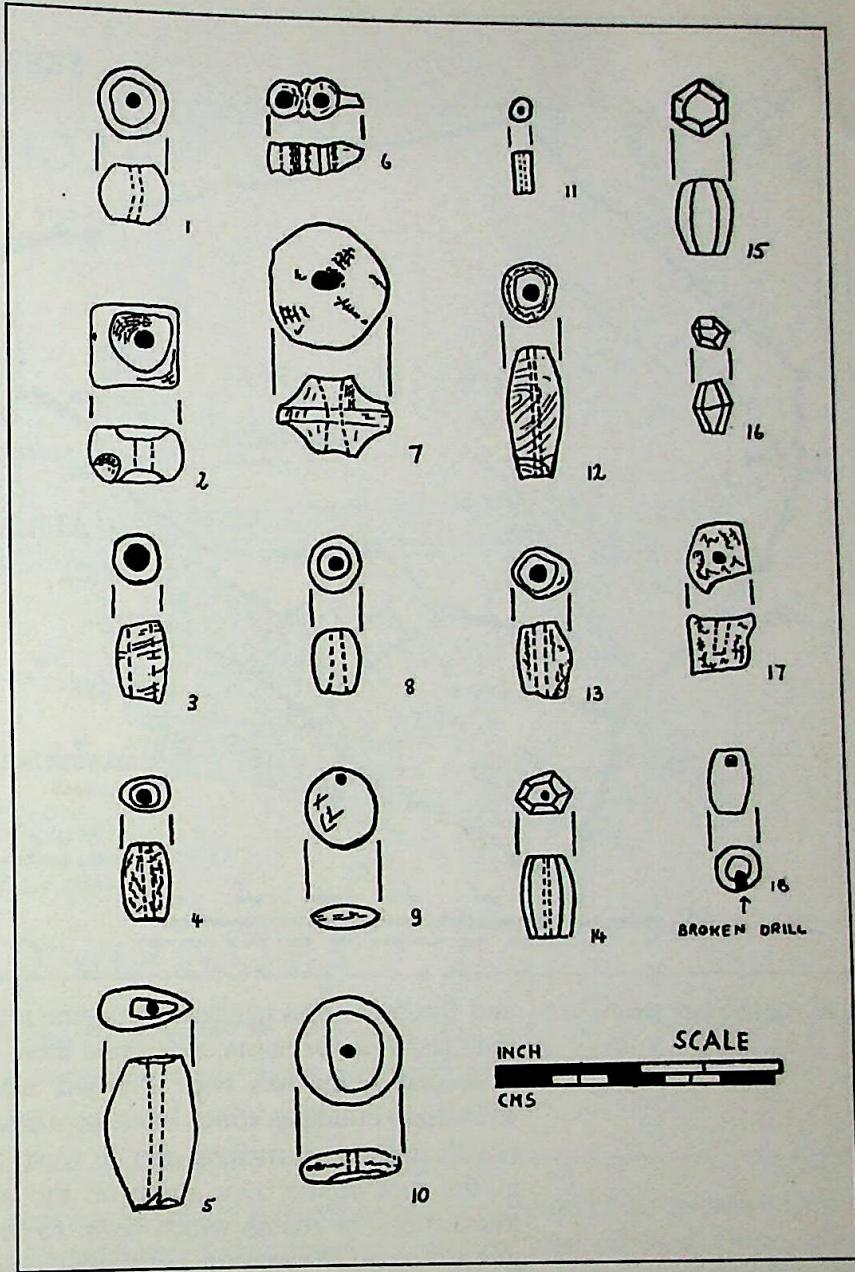


Fig.39. Kilokhari: Beads

from these wells 3 were of gold, 2 of silver, 3 of billon and 19 of copper. They belong to the reigns of Alauddin Khalji, Qutbuddin Mubarak Shah, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, Firozshah Tughlaq and Tughlaq Shah II.

During the second season's work the area on the top of the mound, to the south of the masonry building was exposed bringing to light a *Kachchha* court and the foundations of a series of compartments to its east. "By cutting trenches at the ground level, patches of terraced flooring along the wall have been discovered

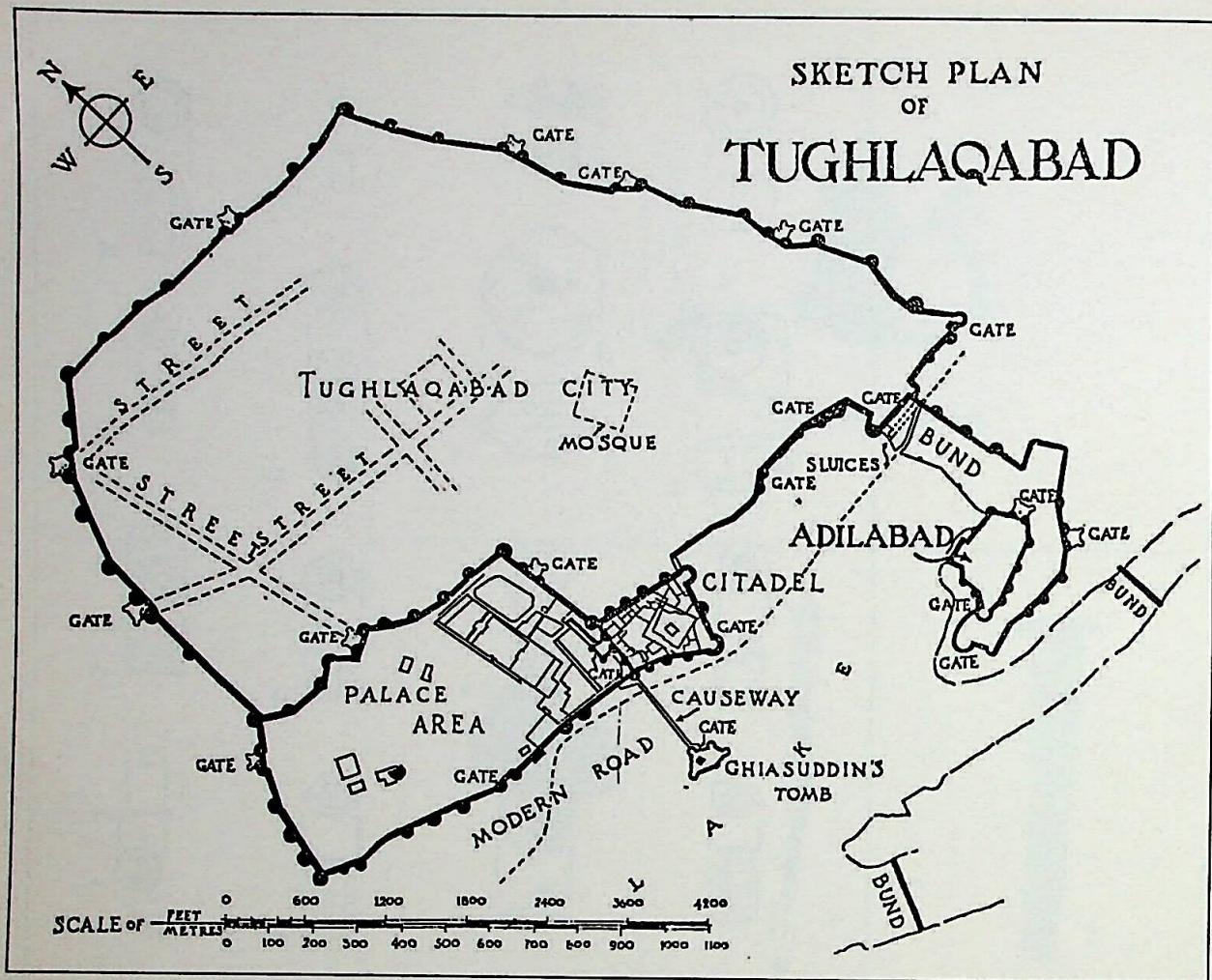


Fig.40. Tughlaqabad: Sketch plan

and these remains suggest that some minor buildings attached to the Qasr-i-Hazar Sutun once stood there. At the south-east corner, a second ramp has been exposed which gives access to the subsidiary buildings which have since disappeared; but a long drain is still to be seen running east to west. The clearance of the plot at the foot of the huge ramp on the east has disclosed ruined foundations of rooms which seem to have been once used as a guard-house. The ruins of a structure, possibly of a hammām, have also been brought to light. New steps have been exposed to the south of the domed pavilion, but it is yet uncertain whether they continued to lead towards the large steps to the palaces and the waiting hall below.¹⁷ Besides usual antiquities found earlier during the first season, stone beads and 36 coins including 4 of gold, 1 of silver, 8 of billon and 23 of copper ranging from Qutbuddin Aibak to Akbar were found during the second season.

During the third season a mass of earth banked against the western wall was removed and a *pakka* concrete landing and a few stone steps giving access to the palace were found. Fragmen-

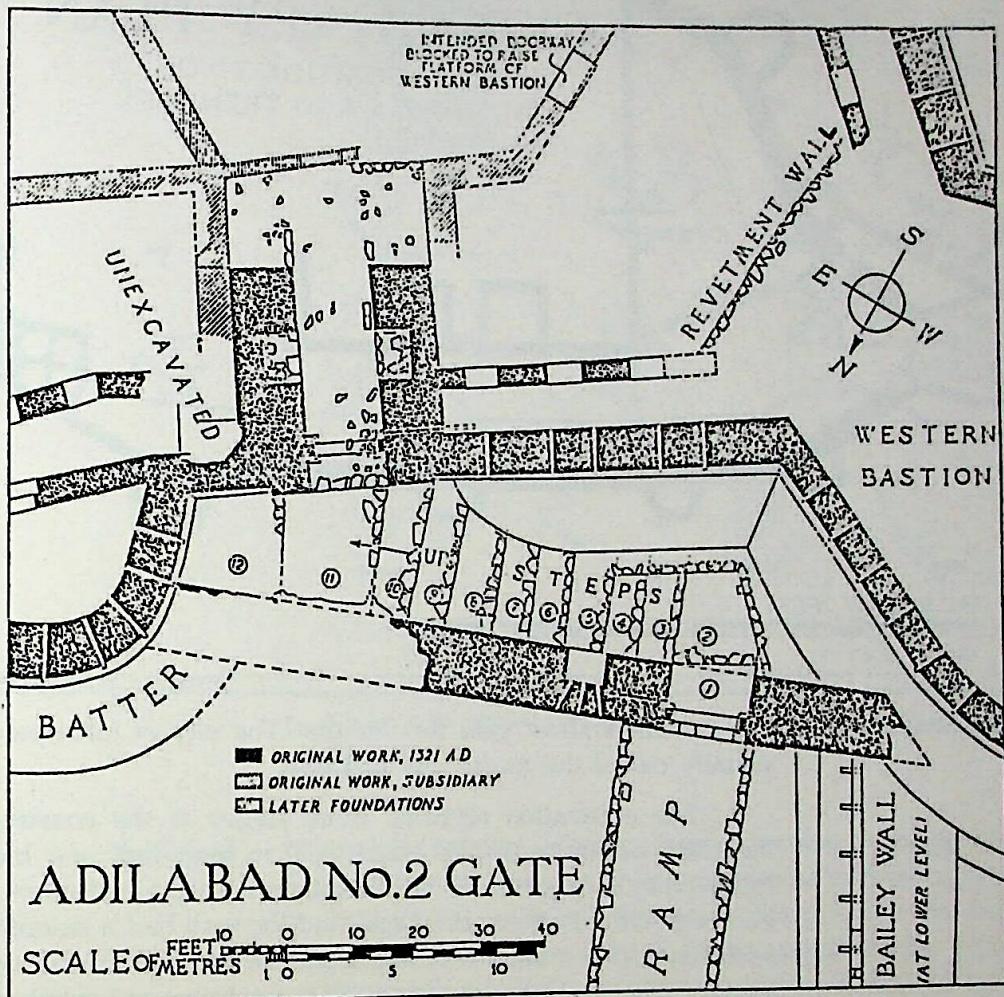


Fig.41. Adilabad: Plan of No. 2 gate

tary patches of a concrete floor in the courtyard of the so-called Qasr-i-Hazar Sutun and further beyond were also exposed. During the fourth season the northern boundary wall of the palace was further exposed for a short length along its west face. Several oblong rooms were noticed after clearance in the area west of the domed entrance. Sixty-three coins, glazed pottery and beads were found which have not been described in the report.

Jahanpanah

Archaeological Survey of India under K.M. Srivastava and M.C. Joshi conducted small scale excavation across one of the bastions of the fort wall of Jahanpanah which was constructed by Muhammad Tughlaq (A.D. 1324-51). The trench was laid near its junction with

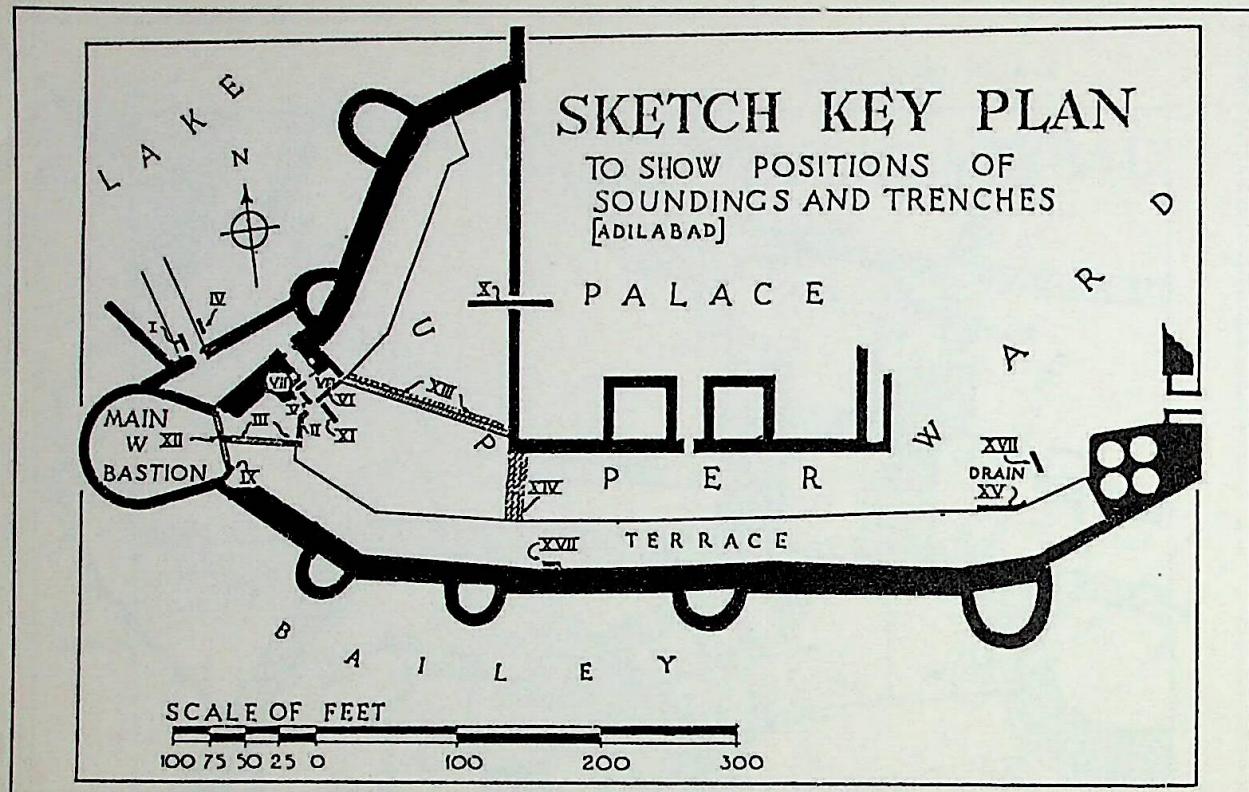


Fig.42. Adilabad: Sketch key plan

the eastern wall of Qila Rai Pithora. The city of Jahanpanah is usually called the fourth city of Delhi.

"The excavation revealed three stages of the construction, including additions, in the extant 6.30 m high wall and bastion, followed by a desertion. In the first stage, a deep foundation-trench had been cut into the natural soil, and the wall had a smooth face with four offsets, each receding from the other. The wall was of ashlar-masonry with a neat face on the exterior and rubble in the core. Within the foundation the exterior was slightly rough and was built of smaller stones. After a lapse of time, the wall along with the working-level was raised, this time without any offset. The latter was heightened by the deposition of clay and *kankar* dug up from elsewhere. The last stage was represented by another working-level, higher up, made of the same material as the preceding one. The wall fell into disuse thereafter, and hewn stones of the facing and rubble started falling off from their original positions.

"The picture on the outer side of the fort-wall, i.e. the bastion, was slightly different, though the stages were in conformity with the inner ones. It was built up in regular tiers, each resting on a bed of concrete."¹⁸

The ceramics included glazed ware with paintings generally in brown upon a white background. A copper coin of Mahmud

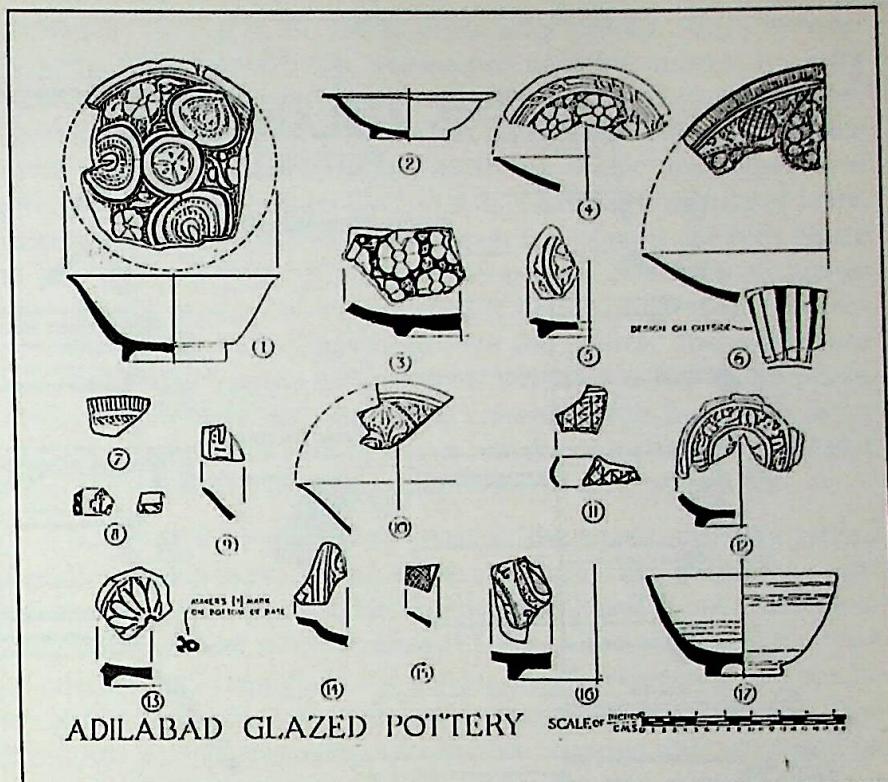


Fig.43. Adilabad: Glazed pottery

Tughlaq (A.D. 1392-1412) was found from the last working level at the site.

Adilabad

Hilary Waddington, Assistant Superintendent in charge of the Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India carried out excavations in 1944-45 at Adilabad fortress which forms an outwork of Tughlaqabad, the third city of Delhi, suggested by the excavator as the fourth city.¹⁹ The subsidiary fort of Adilabad is connected with Tughlaqabad town by a causeway which served the purpose of a dam to hold up water in the lake towards south of the city (Fig. 40). It was constructed by Muhammad Tughlaq as a fortified palace possibly soon after he ascended the throne. Main objective of the excavation was to clear and elucidate the north-western gateway and to collect material for a study of the pottery of Tughlaq period. It appears from the report that more attention was given on debris clearance around the north-western gateway and less on the stratigraphy of the site.

Some important notices after the debris clearance at north-western gate include the evidence of stepped ramp connecting the lower and upper gates, the steps of which had the average width of 2 m and the vertical riser being about 7.5 cm (Fig. 41). The other evidence brought to the notice was the recovery of a lintel block formed in two pieces in the debris about 2 m above the floor level

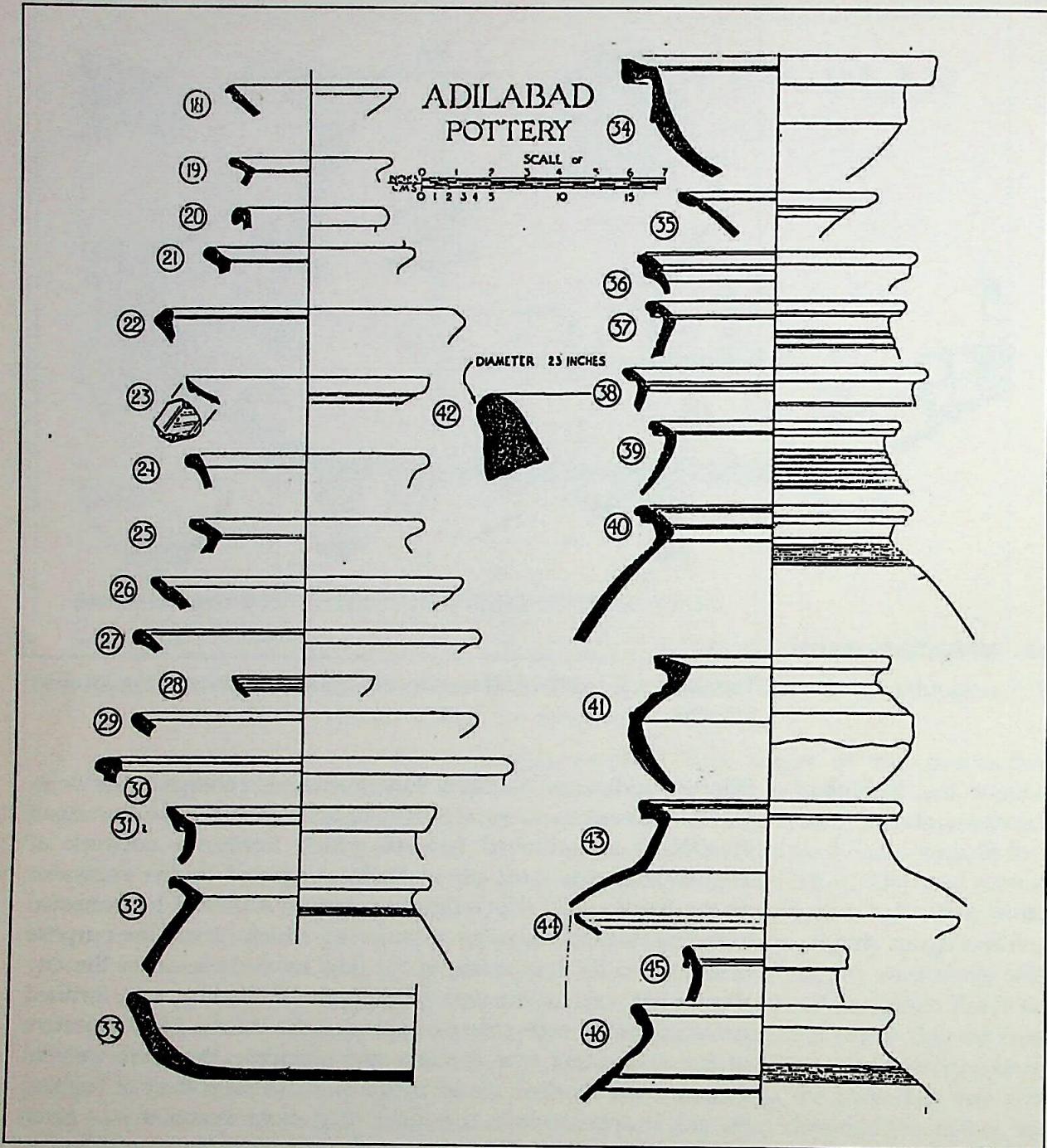


Fig.44. Adilabad: Pottery

which was perhaps originally superimposed on the lintel still *in situ* on the upper gate. Its construction is in the trabeated Hindu style built dry, but the finding of voussoirs of too great a radius in the debris at the guard-room vaults in the gateway suggests that the inner part of it was vaulted and laid in mortar in the Islamic style.

In order to clarify some obscure points a number of soundings were made at the monument. They provided the evidence of

approach to the gate, the ramp, the builder's ramp, steps, terrace-retaining wall, foundations, construction of living quarter towards south of the upper gate shortly after the palace was abandoned, six stages of construction of the fort and palace structures of the same period and remains of squatter's walls and other late structures (Fig. 42). Trench XVIII which is a drain in the upper ward has wrongly been marked in the sketch key plan in the fifth figure of the report as XVII. "Trench XVII is a small clearance alongside the 'rafter' sockets in the lower part of the wall of the *chemin-de-ronde* on the south terrace opposite the palace. The earth here is mixed with charcoal and ash and is from 4 inches to 12 inches thick over the *bajri* flooring of the terrace. From this earth layer came the painted and glazed pottery which can be termed 'Ādilābād type and seems to be the typical ware of this period."²¹

In the area towards south-east of the upper gateway where squatter's level representing some structures are present a worn copper coin of Muhammad bin Tughlaq was found about 5 cm above the floor level and minted about A.D. 1344 and the domestic type of artefacts including glass and copper bangle fragments, two beads, a copper finger-ring, iron needles, hopscotches or gamesmen, iron nails and a small fragment of haematite rounded and scratched on one side which is perhaps the 'flint' of a flint-and-steel for kindling fire, found there suggested the secondary occupation of the site soon after the fort ceased to be used as palace.

The ceramics of the early Tughlaq period at the site include glazed pottery (Fig. 43) having the shapes of bowls and plates or dishes with ring base which are mostly buff ware having traces of glaze and underglaze patterns in brown, black or blue. Geometric and floral patterns are found on them. The second group of ceramic industry comprise red ware (Fig. 44) rims of vases, water vessels, carinated *handi*, jars, basins, bowls and dishes.²² Other important finds of the period include two copper coins of Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad bin Tughlaq, iron arrow-heads, knife blade, buckle tang, clip, needle and nails and hopscotches or gamesmen made out of glazed and unglazed pottery and red sandstone.

Archaeological Survey of India has carried out works involving clearance of debris at a number of monuments in Delhi, particularly at Kotla Firoz Shah, Red Fort, Tughlaqabad Fort, Sheesh Mahal at Shalimar Bagh, Sarai Shahji, Qutb Complex, Balban's tomb and around Sultan Ghari's tomb during the course of structural conservations and remarkable evidence of structures, pottery and antiquities of contemporary periods has come to light from time to time. There is still much scope for carrying out such works in future at a number of monuments and sites, both protected and unprotected.

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Monuments of Delhi

Delhi's history, unlike the histories of many capital cities of the world, such as Baghdad, Cairo and Babylon of the Middle East with broken continuity owing to their irascible nature, protracted feuds and unsustained legacies, has witnessed evolutionary developments from the chalcolithic age criss-crossing the classical civilizations, but more predominantly upheavals of the middle age, the age of the Rajput kingdoms and the Islamic rule in their sacrosanct nature and the recrudescence of the British rule which gave way to the spirit of nationalism in modern India.

Recent archaeological investigations attest to early inhabitation of Delhi in the lower palaeolithic age and human activities are noticed in the following middle palaeolithic, upper palaeolithic, chalcolithic and early iron ages with the beginning of the historical period. It is quite clear that the ridges of the sloping Aravallis which end at river Yamuna with tributaries and drains and undulating land surface had contained such a flora and fauna that the area remained ideal for hunters and food gatherers of prehistoric age followed by regular settlements scattered in different parts of the area in protohistoric times. The discovery of over three dozen prehistoric sites¹ throughout Delhi and adjoining parts of Haryana and mostly confined to the bordering hilly area containing villages and places like Kalkaji, J.N.U. Campus, Lado Sarai, Chhatarpur, Anangpur, Surajkund and many sites in between and around Surajkund-Gurgaon stretch and different ridges around water reservoir of Surajkund, Anangpur dam, Badkhal lake-Sohna road, prove that the southern hilly area of Delhi bordering Haryana was environmentally better suited to prehistoric man. A large number of late Acheulian and middle palaeolithic tools were also collected by the author² from Anangpur area which was excavated in 1991 and 1992 by A.K. Sharma³ of the A.S.I., the area towards its north in the west, north and north-east Delhi and further beyond which

was suited for farming and land and river trade, still have protohistoric and early historical remains. The 0.25 to 0.40 m thick implementiferous deposits at Anangpur have revealed hundreds of late Acheulian stone tools comprising handaxes, cleavers, choppers, points, discoids, knives and scrapers, mostly on quartzite. About 82.53 per cent of them are core tools. They have been found from the surface and deposits near the fourth and fifth palaeo-channels of Yamuna.

Parsimonious excavations by the Department of Archaeology of Delhi Administration at Mandoli in east Delhi and Bhorganj in north Delhi and explorations by the author in west Delhi where the site of Kharkhari Nahar was discovered, the presence of late Harappan pottery has now been established which is found in the levels below the horizon of Painted Grey Ware. Thus, the antiquity of development of civilisation in Delhi goes back to at least the first half of the second millennium B.C. Recent explorations⁴ have brought to light occurrence of Painted Grey Ware, black-and-red ware and black-slipped ware at the sites of Maim-ka-Rehra or the mound of Gordon Highlanders column and Khera Kalan besides at Kharkhari Nahar, Bhorganj, and during trial excavations at Salimgarh fort by the author in 1995.

The early history of Delhi is shrouded in mystery. It seems that the people or place known as Bodh or Bodhi which finds mention in the *Mahābhārata* and *Mahābhāṣya* of Patañjali⁵ was one of the nigamas of Indraprastha and was regarded as a celebrated pilgrim centre. The same seems to be Nigambodh of the present, located on the right bank of Yamuna near Red Fort. The discovery of Aśoka's Minor Rock Edict near East of Kailash in New Delhi provides evidence of early historical activities in the area.

A number of scientific clearance works have been done in Delhi, particularly at important monuments besides regular excavations such as at Adilabad (1946) by H. Waddington,⁶ Lal Kot fortification (1957-61) by Y.D. Sharma⁷ and Purana Qila (1969-73) by B.B. Lal.⁸ While the earlier two excavations were confined to a limited area with limited scope, the last excavation was a major project as its land area was traditionally known and formed the most important part of the city of Indraprastha where Humayun and Sher Shah had constructed various buildings and citadel of the Dinpanah city of Delhi in the sixteenth century. The trial digging here in 1954-55 had revealed the occurrence of Painted Grey Ware in the lower levels. Although during the excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India from 1969 to 1973 a continuously rich occupation from Maurya to Sunga, Kushan, Gupta, post-Gupta, Rajput, Delhi Sultanate up to the Mughal period was revealed at the site but no separate horizon of Painted Grey Ware culture could

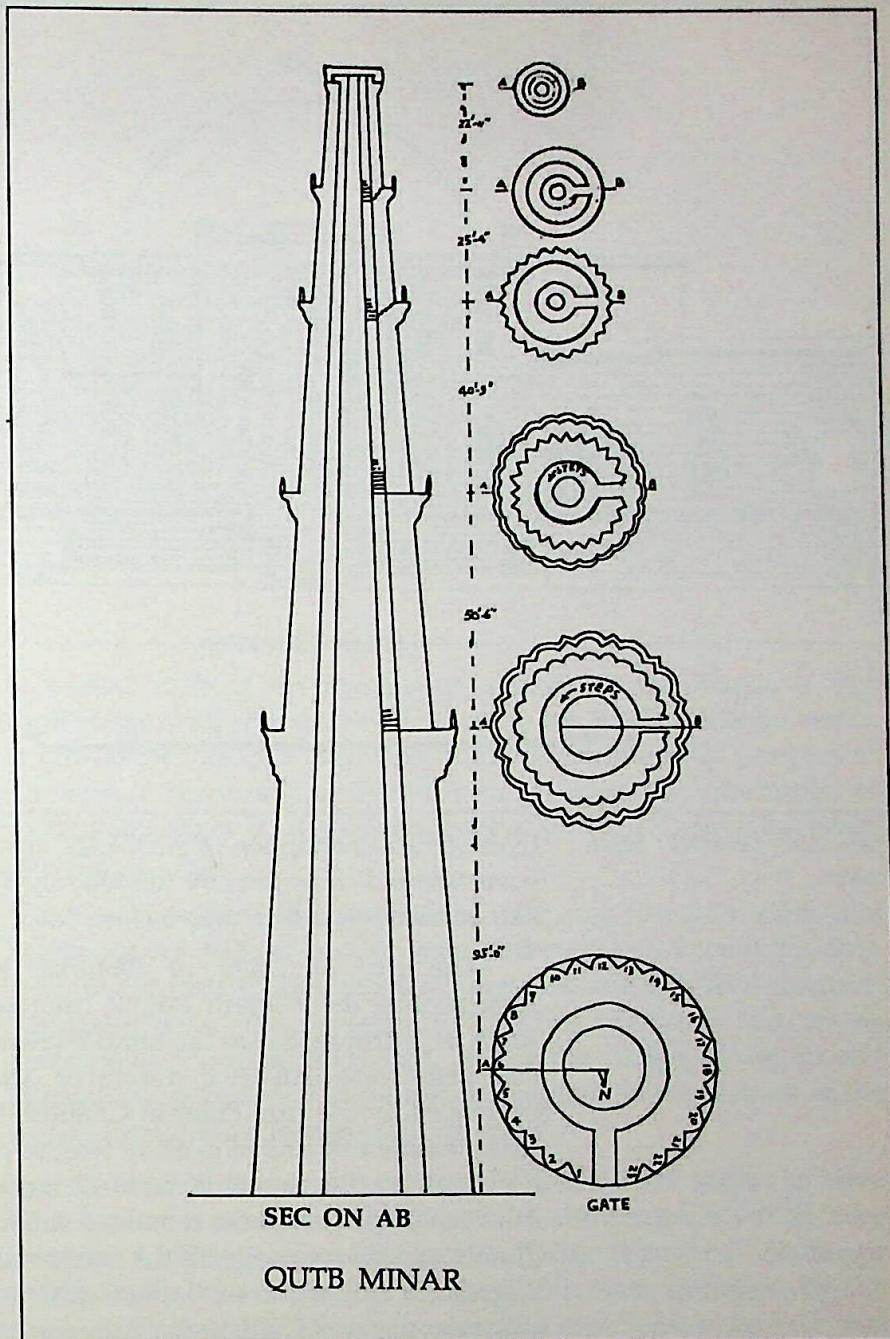


Fig. 45. *Qutb Minar: Plan and elevation*

be traced while the PGW sherds were found in accumulations of later date.

With the disintegration of the Gupta empire, a number of new cities had come up in North India, such as Thanesar (Sthāṇviśvara) or Kanauj (Kānyakubja) and the old cities like Mathura, Ahichchhatra, Hastinapur, Kāmpilya, Sāṅkāśya and Indraprastha lost their glory. Indraprastha was reduced to the status of subdivision (pratigaṇa or pargana) of Delhi as mentioned in the Sarban

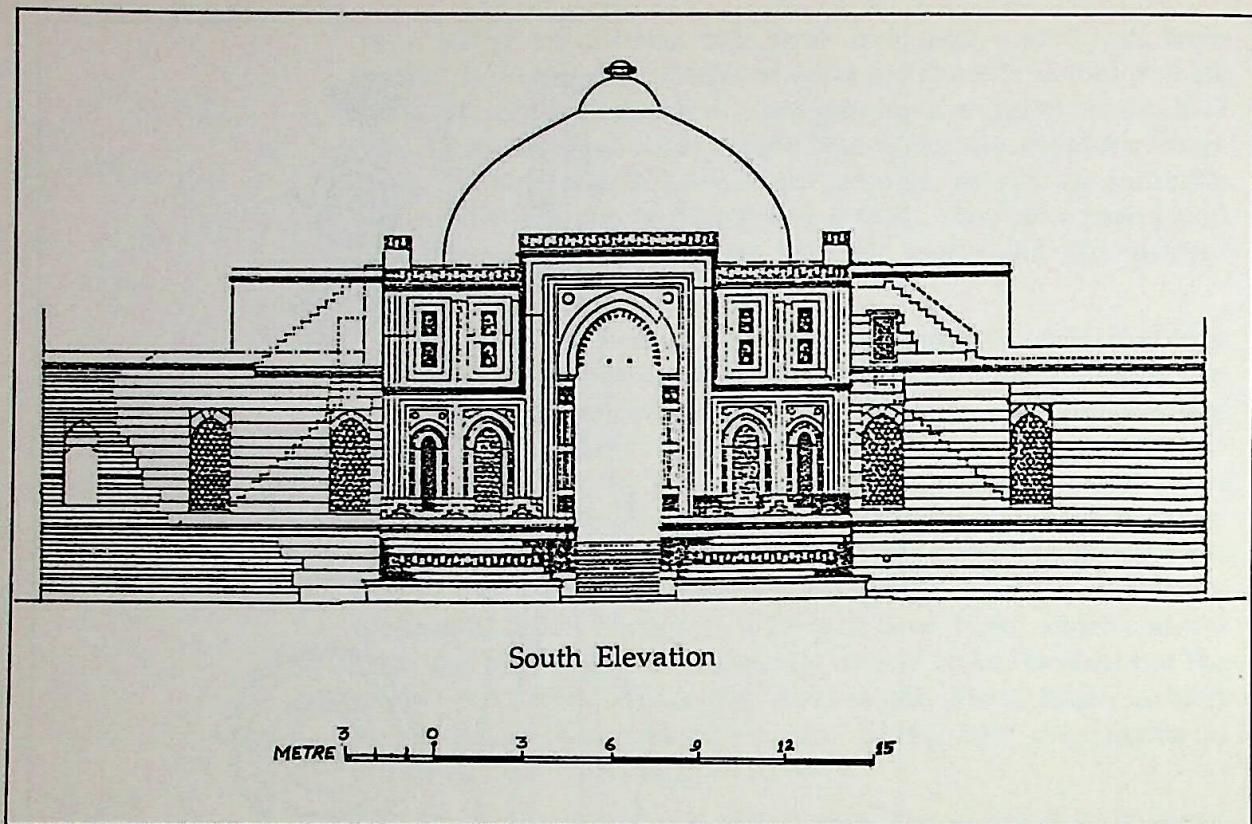


Fig.46. *Alai Darwaza: South elevation*

(New Delhi) inscription of A.D. 1327 in which Delhi (Dhillikā) has been referred to as the city founded by the Tomars in the heaven-like country on earth called Hariyānā.

The city of Dhilli or Dhillikā, which was founded by Anāgapāla, the Tomara Rajput ruler was located about 10 km south of Indraprastha at the temple-township of Yoginipura which had come into existence during or after the Gupta period as evidenced by the Iron Pillar of Chandra (fourth century A.D.) and other temple remains of ninth to twelfth centuries A.D. in the Qutb Archaeological Area within the fortifications of the first city of Delhi. After the Guptas, the area remained under Pratihāras, Tomaras and Chauhānas respectively till the advent of the Turks. The name of Yoginipura is found in the Jaina Paṭṭāvalis and is found mentioned as synonymous of Dhilli in the Palam Baoli inscription of A.D. 1276. It seems probable that after the foundation of the seat of power in the middle of the eleventh century A.D. the Tomaras changed the name of Yoginipura as Dhilli or Dhillikā or Dhillikāpuri. A number of Brahmanical and Jaina temples were already in existence there and with the coming of new seat of power in the township, the urban population also increased. It was in the eleventh century that the first known fort of Delhi was constructed. This became famous as Lal Kot in the following period and the city became an important centre of political, cultural and economic activities and

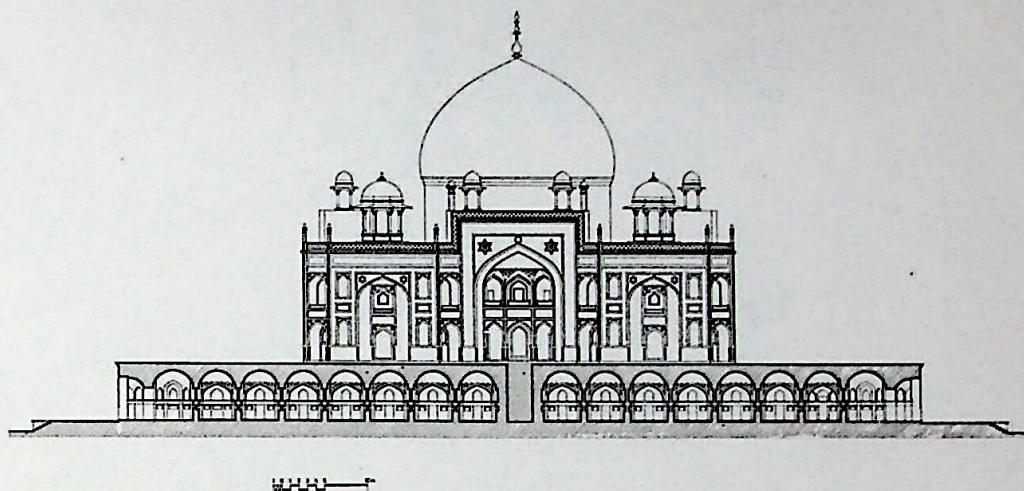


Fig.47. Humayun's Tomb:
Elevation

to protect it from the continuous attacks of the Turks, a city fortification wall was provided, possibly by the Chauhānas which is now known as Qila Rai Pithora. The existence of 27 temples at the time of the attack of Turks is known from the inscription of Qutbuddin Aibak on the eastern gateway of the Quwwatul Islam mosque at Qutb.

The Tomaras had occupied the hilly area towards south-east of the city before they became independent rulers. Seemingly, they were the vassals of the Pratihāra kings and ruled from Anangpur-Surajkund area. The remains of an early medieval fort in the outcrops of Aravallis and a dam, both in the village Anangpur and circular water reservoir in Surajkund suggest their presence in the region from eighth to eleventh centuries A.D.

In the vicinities of the first city of Delhi there seems to have been a number of outposts and localities, the names of which have been still not forgotten, i.e. Mahipalpur, Palam (Pālamba), Madangir (Madanagiri or Anangagiri). These places were occupied by the Turks after they had the sway over the area where we find that the famous tomb of Sultan Ghari (son of Iltutmish) came into existence near Mahipalpur having a famous temple of Rajput era. Similarly the area towards east of Madangir was occupied for construction of the third city of Delhi, Tughlaqabad.

About the nomenclature of Delhi, the most convincing premise comes from the legend according to which Anangapāla not caring the advice of the court nobles and scholars got uprooted the iron pillar which was believed to have been fixed on the hood of serpent

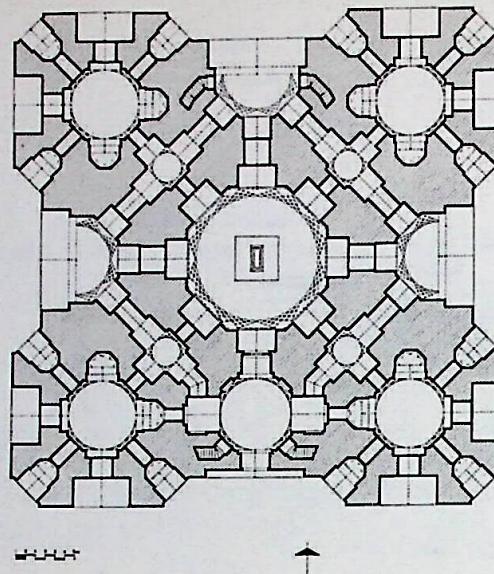


Fig.48. Humayun's Tomb: Plan

god Śeṣanāga as the axis of the earth and was called *killī* (nail). It was believed that so long the pillar would remain fixed the rule of the dynasty would continue. It is said that when the king saw its lower part with the remains of blood, he was perturbed and again tried to refix the pillar in the earth but it remained loose (*dhilli*) and thus the name of the place became famous as Dhilli.

Archaeological Survey of India conducted excavations in 1957-61 to study the fortifications of the Lal Kot and Qila Rai Pithora and traces of Rajput phase were found. Similarly, Rajput remains were also found in the excavations at Purana Qila (old fort) in 1955 and 1969 to 1973. In the Qutb Archaeological Area hundreds of fragments of sculptures and architectural members are scattered all over or can be noticed as used in the later constructions. In the survey done under Sir Alexander Cunningham from 1862 to 1865, the citadel mound of Lal Kot was noticed and the adjoining depression was mentioned by him as Anang Tal, traditionally famous as a reservoir constructed by Anangapāla. The author re-explored the area in 1991 and started excavations on behalf of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1992 which continued for four seasons. The mound having a length of about 340 m in north-south and width of 80 to 100 m in east-west orientation was selected for main excavation work, besides adjoining mounds and Anang Tal.

New excavations at Anang Tal have brought to light for the first time the steps, landing platforms and retaining walls of the reservoir which have been constructed with the help of dressed and semi-dressed stone blocks with partial lime masonry with evidence of iron dowels for tightening the grip of stones and repairs of the reservoir. A number of mason-marks and *Nāgari* letters have been

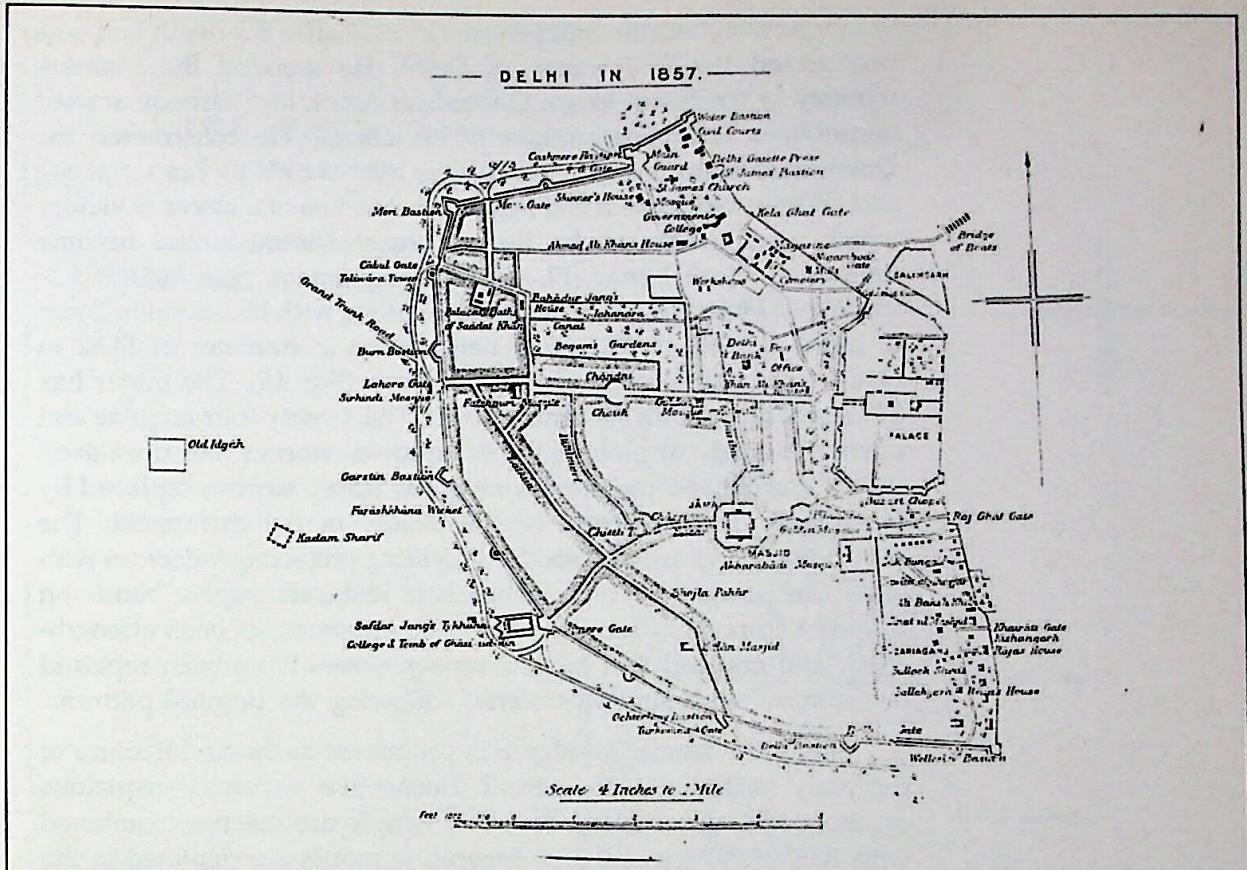


Fig.49. Shahjahanabad (Delhi) in 1857

noticed on stone blocks which are similar to those found in the Quwwatul Islam mosque and also noticed in the Bhojapur temple of the eleventh century A.D. It is believed that Alauddin Khalji utilised the water of the reservoir for construction of Alai Minar. Excavated remains of Anang Tal are the evidences of the only known Rajput structure in its *in situ* position in Delhi.

Excavations at the citadel mound of Lal Kot have exposed huge structures of early Sultanate period (late twelfth to late fourteenth century A.D.). The occurrence of structures, subsequently revealed in four structural phases of this period, let excavations in lower levels be confined to limited space. As compared with early edifices of the Sultanate period which have palatial complexes, the Rajput remains are numerically less but three structural phases of Rajput period have been definitely surfaced as having thick random rubble walls which have yielded copper coins, sculptures, terracotta objects, beads and rings of ivory, bone, glass or semi-precious stones, glass bangle pieces and the typical red ware types.

The Rajput rule ended in Delhi with the defeat of Prithvirāj Chauhān in the battle of Tarain in A.D. 1192 and Muhammad-bin-Sam occupied the kingdom and appointed Qutbuddin Aibak as his

governor who became independent in 1206 after his death and was proclaimed the first Sultan of Delhi. He founded the Mamluk dynasty of the Slave kings. Qutbuddin Aibak had already started demolitions and constructions of his choice. He constructed the Quwwatul Islam mosque which was also known as Jami mosque and on its south-eastern end began construction of a tower of victory which was completed by his successor Iltutmish and became famous as Qutb Minar (Pl. 40). The monument, now included in the World Heritage list of monuments along with Humayun's Tomb in Delhi in 1993, is 72.5 m in height with a diameter of 14.32 m at the base and about 2.75 m on the top (Fig. 45). The minar has 379 steps along with its central shaft. The twenty-four angular and circular flutings of plan of the three lower storeys and the mixed use of marble and red sandstone in the upper storeys replaced by Firoz Shah Tughlaq enhance the beauty of the monument. The decorative effect is increased by providing projecting balconies with stalactite pendentive type of brackets and calligraphic bands on different storeys. In recent years its foundation has been strengthened, and cracked and bulged veneer stones have been repaired or replaced with similar material following the original pattern.

The Indo-Islamic amalgam is prominent in the architecture of the early Delhi-Sultanate period. Decorative patterns, auspicious symbols and technical execution of temple architecture combined with Arabic calligraphy and decorative motifs are depicted in the Muslim architecture of the period.

The Mamluk Sultans ruled for about 100 years from Lal Kot citadel of the first city of Delhi. They include distinguished rulers like Iltutmish, Razia Sultana, Nasiruddin, Balban and Kaikubad, the last of which had constructed a palace on the bank of Yamuna at Kilokhari. Qutbuddin Aibak had constructed the white palace (Qasr-i-Safed) in 1205 in Lal Kot which was the main seat of administration. The Mamluk Sultans had also constructed palaces like Kushk-i-Firozi, Kushk-i-Sabz, Chabutra-Nasira in Lal Kot. Balban had constructed Lal Mahal or Marzghan in the vicinity. Remains of these palaces have not been traced out. In the recent excavations by the Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India under the direction of the author, traces of such palaces have been found at the citadel mound of Lal Kot, though they have not been identified individually.

Four tombs of the Mamluk Sultans have been identified in Delhi. The earliest of them is the tomb of Nasiruddin Mahmud, the elder son of Iltutmish, constructed in 1231 and locally famous as Sultan Ghari's tomb near Vasant Kunj colony. Sometimes back extensive repairs were carried out at the monument and its surrounding house complexes were exposed and repaired as part of public awareness programme. Two other sons of Iltutmish were also buried there.

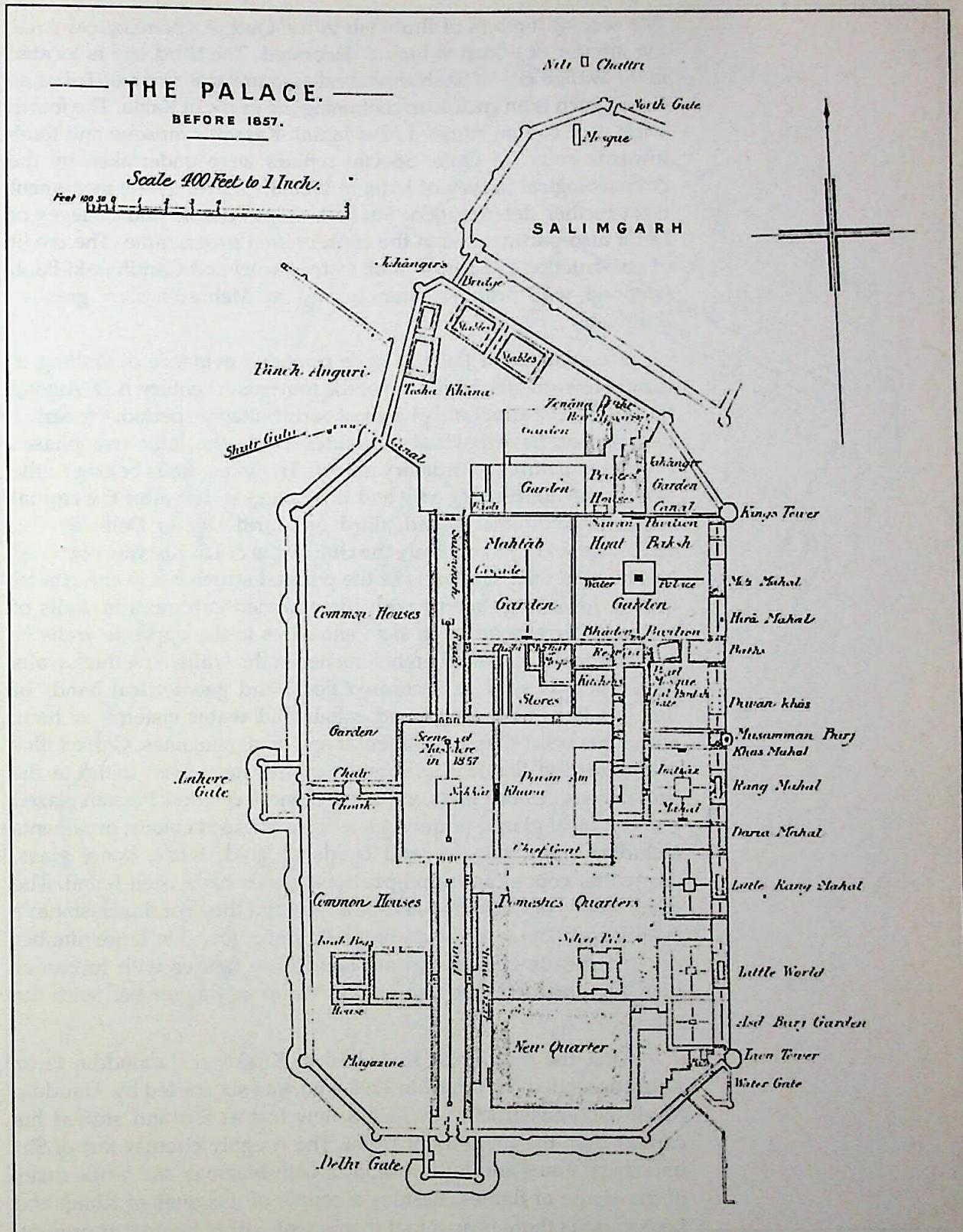


Fig.50. Red Fort: Plan, before 1857

The second tomb is of Iltutmish in the Qutb Archaeological Area, the interior of which is highly decorated. The third one is located in the walled city of Shahjahanabad area towards north of Turkman Gate which is an enclosure containing the grave of Razia. The fourth tomb is of Balban situated near Jamali-Kamali's mosque and tomb towards south of Qutb. Special repairs were undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1988-89 to protect the monument from further deterioration. Students from schools and colleges of Delhi also participated in the conservation programme. The credit of construction of Shamsi-talab (a reservoir) and Gandhak-ki-Baoli (stepped well with sulphur spring) in Mehrauli area goes to Iltutmish.

Excavations at Lal Kot have provided evidence of shifting of capital towards the beginning of the fourteenth century A.D. Among the successive structural phases of early Sultanate period, the earlier two phases have palatial structures while the later two phases contain structures of ordinary nature. The latest finds belong to the late fourteenth century only and thus suggest that after the capital was shifted to the second, third or fourth city of Delhi at Siri, Tughlaqabad or Jahanpanah, the citadel site of Lal Kot was occupied by common folk. The parts of the palatial structures at the citadel mound have large rooms with three arched entrances in walls of one side corresponding to such entrances in the opposite walls or symmetrically provided arched niches in the walls. The thick walls have plain as well as decorated floral and geometrical bands of lime plaster painted with red colour and water cisterns or hauz with lotus petal shape, rectangular and octagonal ones. Glazed tiles and terracotta finials of different varieties have been found in the excavations. Among finds, imported Chinese celadon, Persian glazed pottery, local glazed pottery, glassware of green colour, ornaments including rings, bangles and beads of gold, ivory, bone, glass, terracotta, copper and semi-precious stones have been found. The coins mostly of horseman-and-bull type and those of Iltutmish have been found. The terracotta human figurines found in large number are stylistically typical and are handmade figures with turban or high cap, bearded face and having sword or dagger tied with the waist.

After the murder of Kaikubad in Kilokhari, Jalaluddin Firoz Khalji ascended the throne in 1290 who was succeeded by Alauddin Khalji who constructed in 1303 a new fort at Siri and shifted his capital from the first city of Delhi. The roughly circular fort of Siri had seven gates and lofty ramparts with bastions and battlements of the shape of flames. Besides a couple of mosques of Khalji and Lodi periods there is no intact monument within the fort at present. It is believed that for the benefit of the residents of Siri, the second

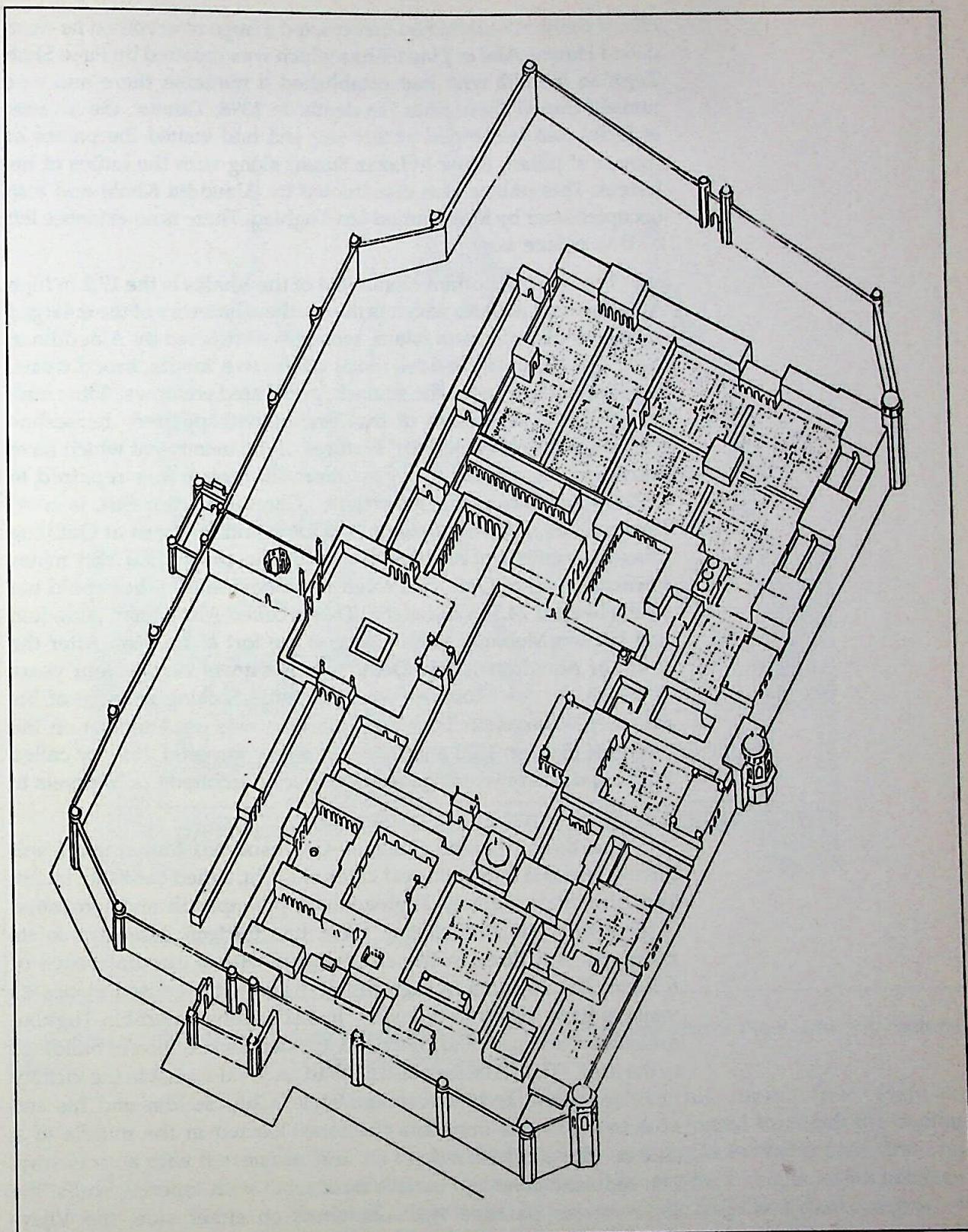


Fig.51. Red Fort: Pictorial view of original construction

city of Delhi, Alauddin had constructed a huge reservoir on its west, called Hauz-i-Alai or Hauz-Khas which was repaired by Firoz Shah Tughlaq in 1352 who had established a madarsa there and was himself buried there after his death. In 1398, Taimur, the invader of Delhi had encamped at this site and had visited the palace of thousand pillars (Qasr-i-Hazar Sutun) along with the ladies of his harem. This palace was constructed by Alauddin Khalji and also occupied later by Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq. There is no evidence left of this palace now.

The most important monument of the Khaljis is the 17.2 m high Alai-darwaza at Qutb which is the southern gateway of the enlarged enclosure of Quwwatul Islam mosque constructed by Alauddin in A.D. 1311 (Fig. 46) Besides usual decorative motifs, broad dome, recessed arches under the squinch, perforated windows, 'lotus bud' fringe on the underside of true arches with pointed horseshoe shape are the characteristic features of the monument which have increased its charm and grandeur. Its dome was repaired in 1992-93 and was made watertight. Chorminar near Siri, Jamaat-Khana mosque at Nizamuddin and tomb and madarsa at Qutb are other monuments of his time. He wanted to construct a lofty minar towards north of Qutb conceived to be double of it, but could not take it beyond 24.5 m in height. This is called Alai-Minar. Alauddin and his son Mubarak Shah enlarged the fort of Lal Kot. After the death of Alauddin in 1317 Delhi, was in duress for next four years in which his son Mubarak was murdered. Taking revenge of his murder Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq Shah who was an Amir sat on the throne of Delhi in 1321 and founded a new imperial dynasty called Tughlaq dynasty which gave a number of architectural marvels to the city.

The three Tughlaq Sultans—Ghiyasuddin, Muhammad and Firoz—founded three different cities of Delhi, called the third, fourth and fifth cities, namely Tughlaqabad, Jahanpanah and Firozabad respectively. The first among them has thirteen gateways in its ramparts and three in the citadel part with a circumference of 6.5 km. The 10 to 15 m high rubble walls with dressed stones as veneers have survived in ruins. In 1325 Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq ascended the throne and continued further construction of buildings in the area. The fortresses of Adilabad and Nai-ka-kot in the vicinity have the same architecture and style. Ghiyasuddin and his son Muhammad were buried in the tomb located in the middle of a lake on the southern side of the fort connected with a causeway. The red sandstone and marble built tomb with tapering walls, the subterranean passage with chambers on either side, the Vijaymandal and ruined palaces testify the architectural merit of the Tughlaqs. Streets and lanes terminating at gateways in the city

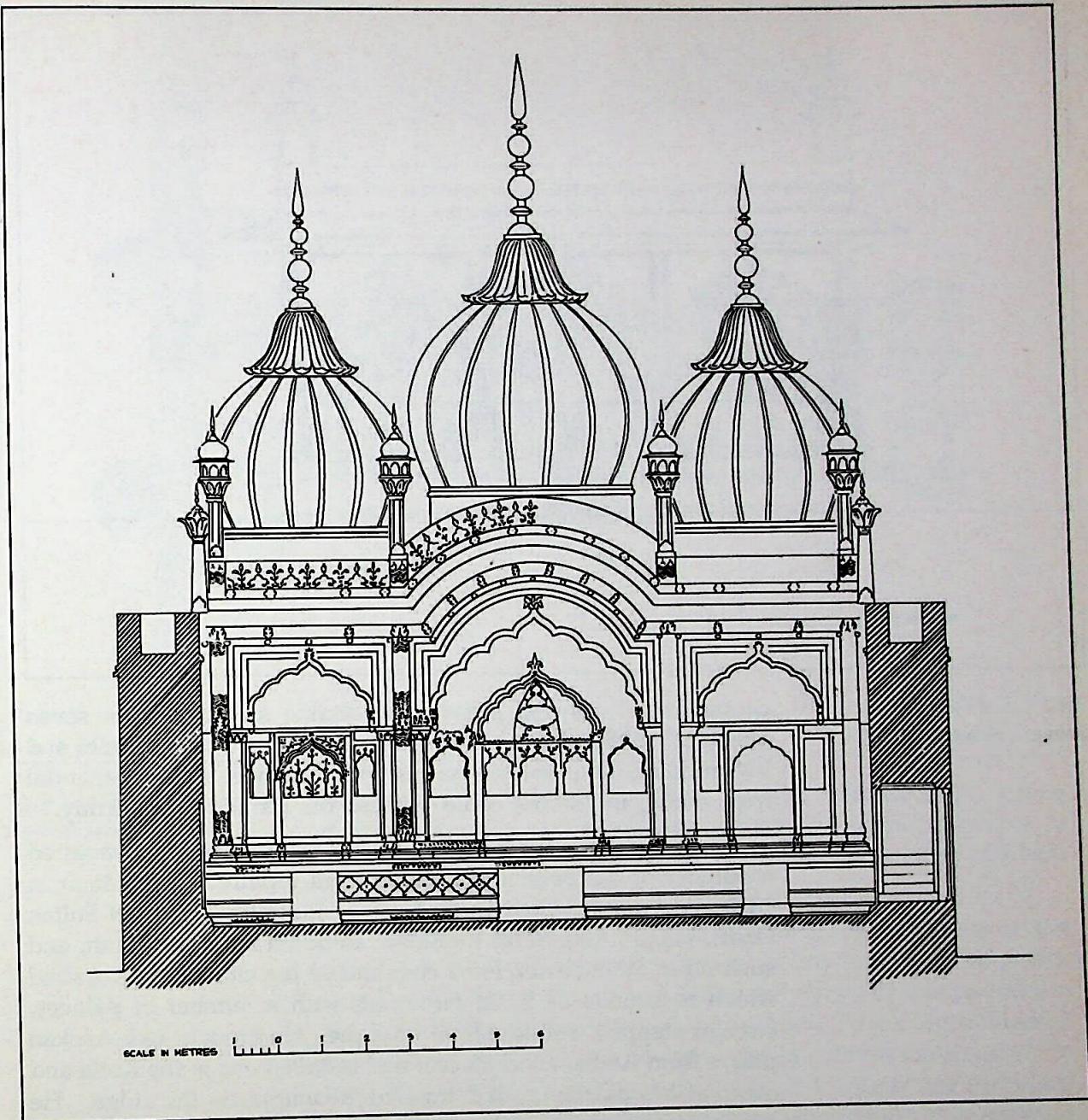


Fig.52. Red Fort: Moti Masjid, elevation

area provide an idea of the flourishing city of the fourteenth century in Ibn Batuta's records.

Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq shifted his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad in the Deccan, but he was forced to reshift the capital to Delhi. He constructed walls and bunds to connect the first two cities of Delhi for protection of the people living in areas between them and it was called Jahanpanah. The Satpula, a dam constructed by him to regulate water in the city and adjoining area under cultivation, is the example of his bridge engineering skill. It still

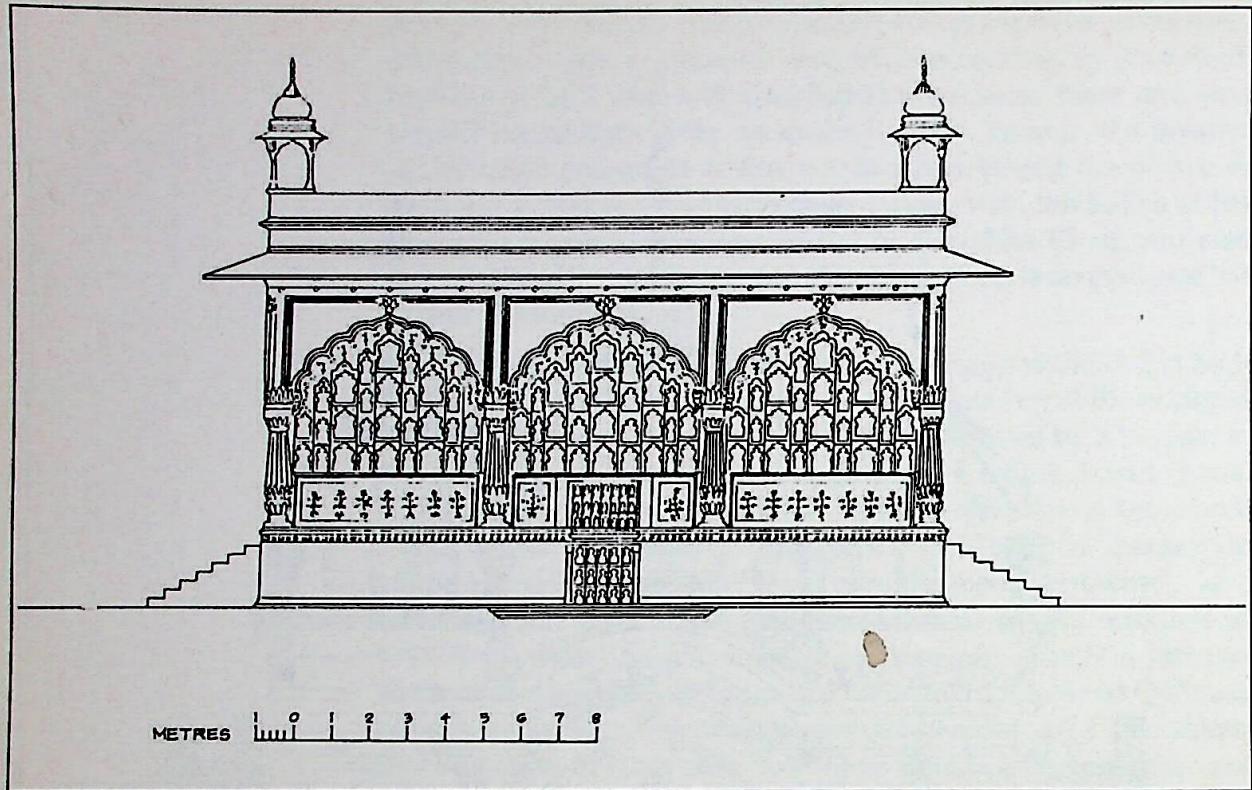


Fig.53. Red Fort: Bhadon pavilion, elevation

contains toe wall and grooves for sliding shutters at its seven openings. Within Jahanpanah are the tombs of Chirag-i-Delhi and Kabiruddin Aulia, the sufi saints and the tower of Vijay-mandal from where the Sultan could witness the parade of his army.

Tughlaq Sultans were not only great builders, but they repaired a number of old buildings. Muhammad repaired Qutb Minar in 1332 and Firoz repaired Qutb, tomb of Iltutmish, tomb of Sultan Ghari, Hauz-i-Alai, Suraj Kund, Nizamuddin Aulia's dargah, and such other monuments. Firoz constructed his citadel in Firozabad which is famous as Kotla Firozshah with a number of palaces, circular stepped well and Jami mosque. He brought two Aśokan pillars from Ambala and Meerut and installed one in the Kotla and other at his palace called Kushk-i-Jahanuma on the ridge. He constructed a number of hunting lodges in the vicinity of the city. The remains of some of them can be seen at Kushk-mahal, Malchamahal, Bhuli-Bhatiyari-ka-mahal, Shikargah at Mahipalpur and Kushk-i-Jahanuma. A number of huge mosques were constructed during his reign. His prime minister Khan-i-Jahan Junan Shah and his son of the same title built seven large mosques in Delhi, amongst which are the famous Kali-masjid, Kalu Sarai mosque, Begumpuri mosque and Khirki mosque. Among other monuments of his time, mention may be made of Wazirabad bridge with adjoining mosque and square tomb and the earliest octagonal tomb in Delhi at

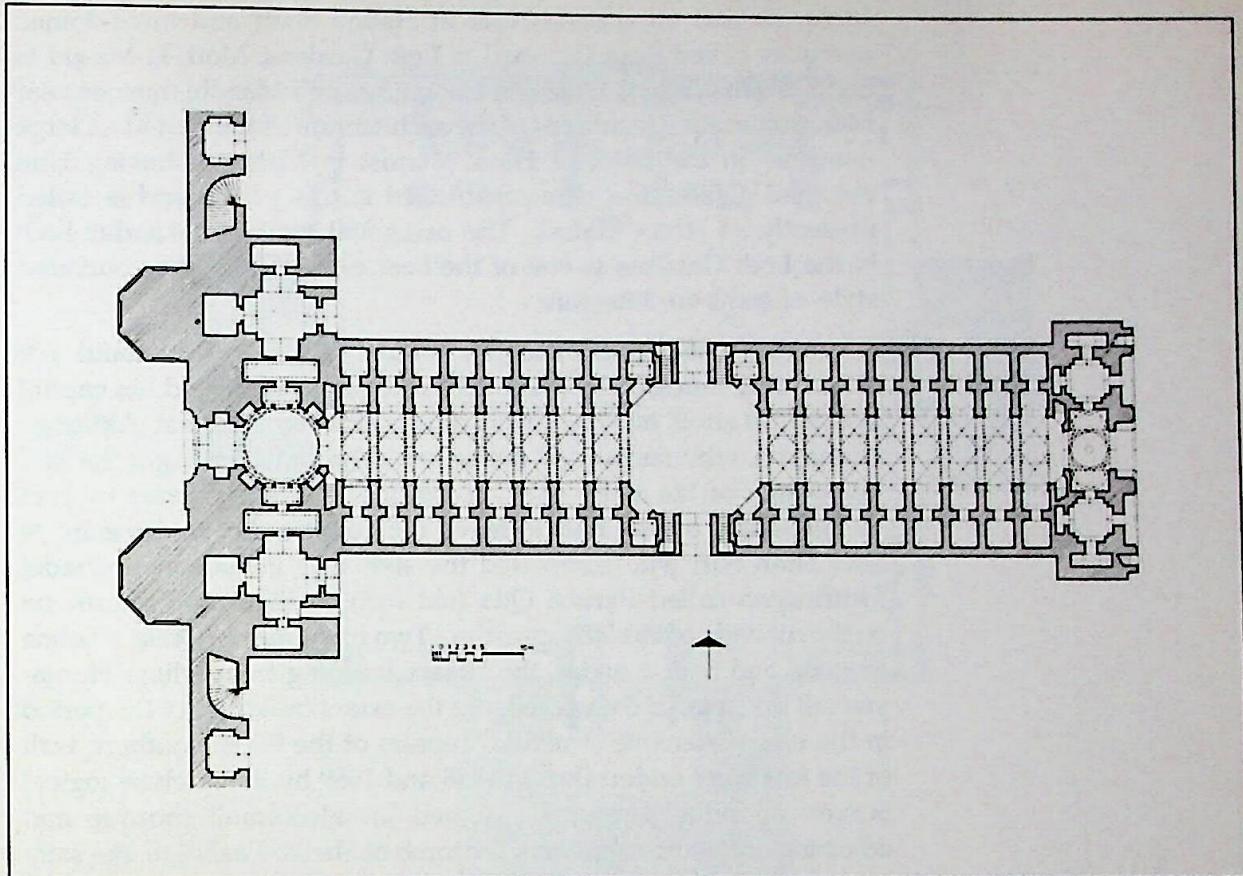


Fig.54. Red Fort: Plan of arcade bazar at Lahori Gate

Nizamuddin called tomb of Khan-i-Jahan Tilangani, the prime minister. Serenity and simplicity are the covetous hallmarks in Tughlaq monuments as compared to the decorative style of Khalji period.

After the death of Mahmud Tughlaq, the last king of the dynasty in A.D. 1413 the new dynasty of Sayyads came to power in A.D. 1414. Some square and octagonal tombs of this period are scattered in the northern part of south Delhi. The octagonal tombs of Mubarak Shah in Kotla Mubarakpur, a fortress constructed by him and of Muhammad Shah in the Lodi Gardens are examples of the continuation of Tughlaq style in their periods. A number of square-shaped tombs are located in this area, some of them with evidences of glazed tiles, but in most of the cases it is difficult to ascertain who was buried in them.

Lodis succeeded Sayyads in 1451 and three rulers of the dynasty ruled till 1526 when Babur conquered India and established the Mughal empire after the battle of Panipat in which Ibrahim Lodi, the last of the Afghan Lodis, was killed. Tombs of Bahlol Lodi, Dariya Khan Lohani and Imam Zamin's tomb at Qutb with decorative and perforated walls; stepped wells of Rajon-ki-Bain at

Mehrauli and Ugrasen-ki-Baoli at Hailey Road and three-domed mosques called Bara Gumbad in Lodi Gardens, Moth-ki-Masjid in South Extension, Nili masjid in Hauz Khas and Mandhi mosque near Mehrauli are the examples of the architecture of the period. A large mansion on the bank of Hauz Shamsi in Mehrauli having blue coloured glazed tiles was constructed in this period and is called presently as Jahaz Mahal. The octagonal tomb of Sikandar Lodi in the Lodi Gardens is one of the best examples of the continued style of tomb architecture.

Babar established Mughal empire in 1526, but could not concentrate much on building activities and established his capital at Agra. A small mosque of his time is situated in Palam. Although Humayun, who succeeded Babar in 1530 ruled from Agra, he laid foundation of the sixth city of Delhi which was named by him as Dinpanah, but he had to leave the country due to pressure of Sher Shah Suri who completed the sixth city including its citadel fortification called Purana Qila (old fort) on the bank of Yamuna on the mounds of old Indraprastha. Two monuments, Quila-i-Kohna mosque and Sher-mandal, the library building from where Humayun fell down in 1555 and died, are the extant buildings of the period in the fort. Extensive structural repairs of the fallen southern wall of the fort were undertaken in 1988 and 1989 by the Archaeological Survey of India. The single domed Jamali-Kamali mosque and adjoining enclosure containing the tomb of Sheikh Fazlullah, the saint poet are typical examples of the period of transition in architectural style. In the interior of the tomb the colourful decorated plaster work and use of glazed tiles are unique. The red sandstone lattices at the tomb of Sheikh Usuf Qattal near village Khirki are examples of the closing phase of architectural history in the continuance of Sultanate rule. Sher Shah and his successors had laid down a network of roads connecting Delhi with many parts of the country. He is very much renowned for Grand Trunk Road. Salimgarh fort was constructed by his son Islam Shah or Salim Shah which was used for various purposes during the Mughal rule after the construction of adjoining Red Fort. It was here that the INA soldiers were imprisoned during 1945 and tried for participating in the Freedom Movement.

Akbar, the great Mughal ruler (1556-1605), had concentrated more on architectural embellishments in Agra and Fatehpur Sikri. Some monuments of his time in Delhi are best examples of early Mughal architecture. They include Humayun's Tomb (Pl. 38), now a World Heritage Monument (Fig. 47). This garden tomb with huge double domed chamber on the extensive platform led to a typical Mughal tomb-architecture which reached its climax in the Taj at Agra. The squarish garden divided by quadrants and bifurcated

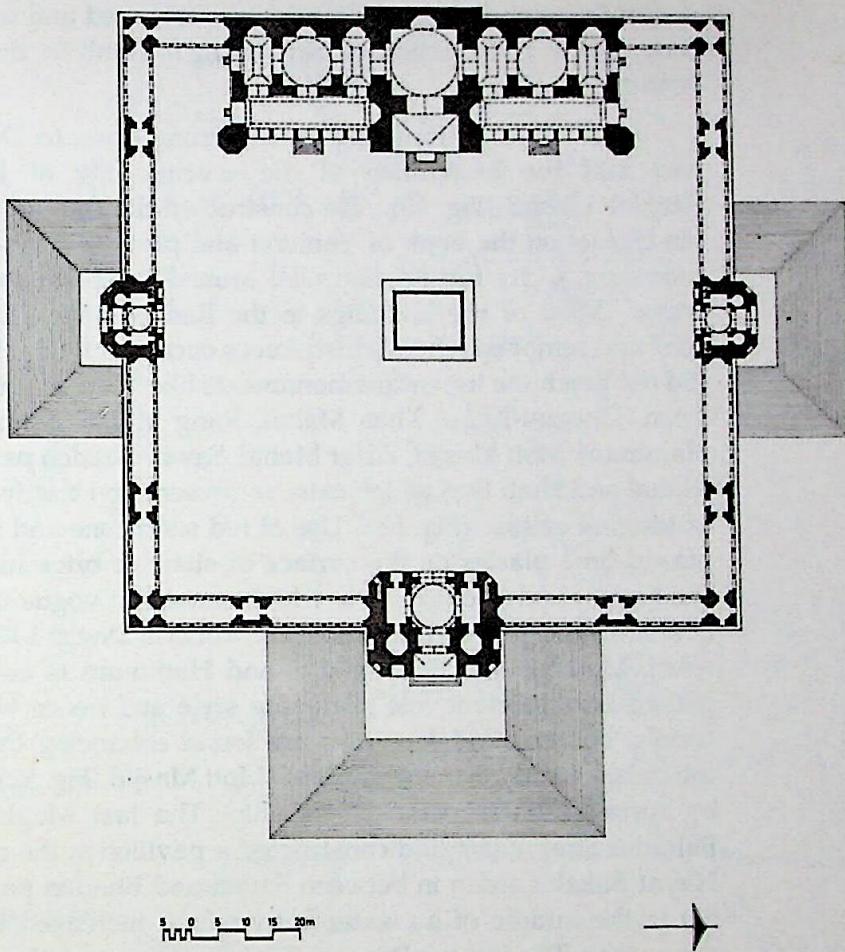


Fig.55. Jama Masjid: Plan.

by water channels and fountains is to be admired. The combination and use of red sandstone and marble in the monument are excellent. A number of Mughal princes are lying buried in the tomb including Humayun (Fig. 48). Among other monuments of early Mughal period, mention may be made of the octagonal tomb of Adham Khan at Mehrauli, Khairul Manazil mosque, Atga Khan's tomb, buildings in the Humayun's Tomb complex, Sabz Burj, Bara Batashewala Mahal and adjoining tombs, Abdunnabi's mosque and Athpula, a bridge with eight openings. Kos Minars or milestones were constructed in the shape of tapering towers on the highways and three such towers are located in Delhi. During the reign of Jahangir (1605-27) the tomb having 64 columns called Chausath Khamba was constructed in Nizamuddin area. The marble tomb was constructed on the remains of Mirza Ajiz Kokaltash around 1623-24. The Barahpula bridge having twelve openings was constructed during his reign. The caravanserai at Badarpur and the tomb of Abdur-

Rahim Khan-i-Khana, the famous court poet of Akbar were also constructed in his time. It is believed that the marble and other decorative stones from the tomb were removed and utilised at the time of the construction of Safdarjung's Tomb in the eighteenth century.

Shahjahan shifted the capital from Agra to Delhi in 1638 and laid the foundation of the seventh city of Delhi called Shahjahanabad (Fig. 49). He constructed the famous Red Fort as his citadel on the bank of Yamuna and protected the new city by providing a city fortification wall around it having fourteen gateways. Most of the buildings in the Red Fort were damaged by 1857 and removed when British forces occupied it (Fig. 50). But they did not touch the important monuments like Naubat Khana, Diwan-i-Am, Diwan-i-Khas, Khas Mahal, Rang Mahal, Mumtaz Mahal, Hammam, Moti Masjid, Zafar Mahal, Savan-Bhadon pavilions, Hira Mahal and Shah Burj which exist at present and testify to the glory of Mughal empire (Fig. 51). Use of red sandstone and marble with glazed lime plaster on the surface of stone or brick masonry is in the typical architectural style which came into vogue in the period of Shahjahan. The pietra-dura (inlay work) in Diwan-i-Khas, Diwan-i-Am, Moti Masjid, Khas Mahal and Hammam is unique. Water played an important role in the life style and hence water ponds, canals, streams and fountains are found enhancing the beauty of the palaces and adjoining gardens. Moti Masjid (Fig. 52) was added by Aurangzeb for personal worship. The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar had constructed a pavilion in the centre of the Hayat Baksh garden in between Savan and Bhadon pavilions (Fig. 53) in the middle of a water body which increased the merit of the garden. The famous Peacock Throne, taken away by Nadir Shah in 1739 once adorned the Diwan-i-Khas. The water arrangements including hot, cold and steam bath in the Hammam is astonishing. The grandeur of the palace forced the emperor to believe that it was heaven on earth and he inscribed the Persian couplet of the above idea on the walls of Diwan-i-Khas. Extensive repairs at the monuments of Red Fort were undertaken by the Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India from 1989 to 1994 and a complete facelift was given to the pavilions and other structures including reproducing panels of pietra-dura work. The imposing gateways and their arcade (Fig. 54) and outworks tell the story of Mughal grandeur.

Shahjahan constructed the largest mosque of the country towards west of the Fort and called it Jama-masjid where thousands of devotees offer prayer daily (Fig. 55). He planned the city with lofty mansions, markets and localities with specialised professions. Roshanara, the daughter of the emperor had constructed a garden

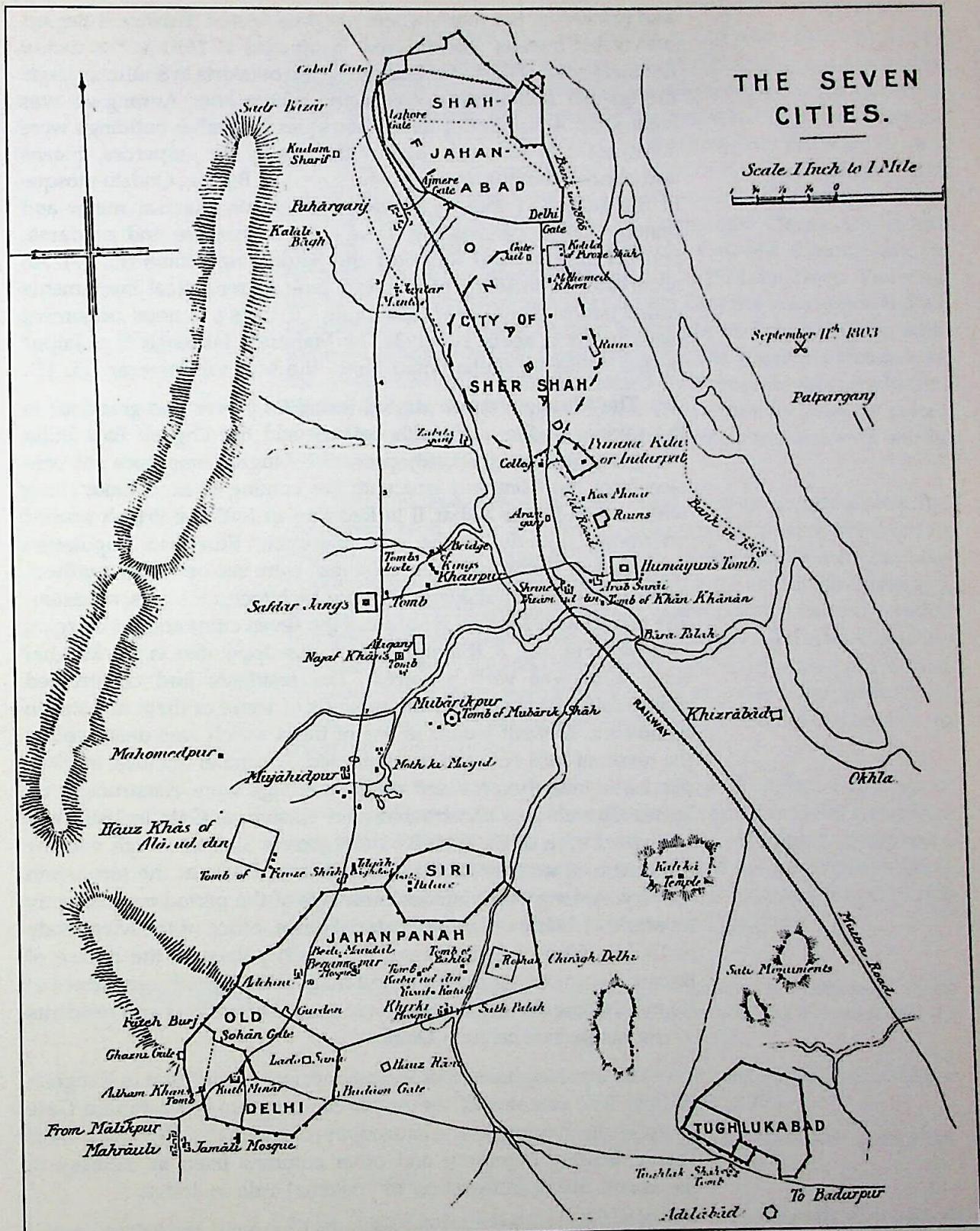


Fig.56. Map of the seven cities of Delhi (A.D. 1803)

and *baradari* of her name where she was buried. Fatehpuri Begam, one of his queens constructed a mosque in 1650 at the end of the main road of Chandni Chowk. At the outskirts in Shalimar Bagh, the Sheesh Mahal was constructed where later Aurangzeb was coronated. A number of tombs, mosques and other buildings were constructed in different parts of the city by the emperors, queens and princes, famous amongst which are Lal Bangla, Qudsia mosque in the garden, Tripolia gateways and sarais, Hastsal minar and hunting lodge, Ghaziuddin Khan's tomb, mosque and madarsa, Sunehri mosque near Red Fort and Safdarjung's tomb (Pl. 39). An observatory consisting of masonry built astronomical instruments called Jantar Mantar near Connaught Circus is a famous monument constructed in about A.D.1724 by Maharaja Jai Singh II of Jaipur by the order of Muhammad Shah, the Mughal emperor (Pl. 41).

The Mughal empire started losing its power and grandeur in the middle of the eighteenth century and the English East India Company became gradually powerful. Mughal emperors got pension from the Company and with the coming of Lord Lake along with Crown Prince Akbar II in Red Fort in 1803 the British started interfering directly in the administration. European population increased in Delhi and their colonies were set up in the northern part of the city on outskirts with new architectural styles, occasionally mixed with Mughal motifs and the seven cities started merging together (Fig. 56). A British resident was appointed in the Mughal court who was very powerful. The residents had constructed mansions and bungalows, the remains of some of them are still to be noticed. Metcalf House is one of them which was destroyed in the revolt of 1857 but was reconstructed. A number of clubs, market-places, hotels, theatres and other buildings were constructed. St. James Church was constructed near Kashmere Gate in 1836 with an expenditure of Rs. 95,000 by Col. James Skinner which became the centre of activity of the Europeans in Delhi in the nineteenth century. Among other famous buildings of the period mention may be made of Ludlow Castle, Fosters House, office of the Magistrate of Delhi, office of Delhi Press, Bhagirath palace or the palace of Begum Samru, Siege batteries and magazines. British cemeteries of Rajpur, Nicholson and Lothian have graves of soldiers and residents of the nineteenth century Delhi.

The last Mughal emperor was imprisoned and sent to Rangoon in 1858. The remains of the revolt can be seen at Kashmere Gate in its walls having holes caused by cannonballs. The Flag Staff Tower, Mutiny Memorial and other columns fixed in memory of the revolt are manifestation of colonial rule in India.

After the downfall of the East India Company, the British capital of India was shifted to Calcutta. But a decision to shift it from

Calcutta to Delhi was taken in the Darbar of Delhi in 1911 in which George V and Queen Mary were present. The capital mission was formed and Lord Hardinge and Hailey selected the site for viceregal lodge at Raisina hill. The Imperial Complex was constructed having viceregal lodge (currently known as Rashtra-pati Bhawan) at one end along with the Secretariat of North and South Blocks and Memorial Arch (India Gate) at the other. Council Chamber (Parliament House), shopping plaza of Connaught Circus, Cathedral Church, St. Martin's Garrison Church, Catholic Church and a number of buildings started coming up. In 1912 the Town Planning Committee was formed and later Edwin Lutyens was appointed as its advisor. Lutyens and Herbert Baker planned the new city with imperial buildings in Indo-European style. The Viceroy's House was the most important building planned by them adopting Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and European styles. The houses for princely states were also planned and roads and lanes were provided with shady trees and statues at crossings.

After Independence in 1947, total change in administrative machinery took place and new by-laws and acts were provided in order to check the unplanned growth of the city due to increase in population and also because of creation of new institutions and government organisations. Partition of the country caused sudden increase of about 5 lakh in the local population. All the ancient cities have now merged into one large metropolitan city with a population of about ten million people which has increased the intensity of life's struggle on the one hand but has newer envisagements to overcome the malaise.

In recent times, a number of huge and artistic buildings of private and public sectors have been constructed in Delhi along with numerous cinema halls, gardens, hotels, shopping complexes, religious places, sports complexes and due consideration is being accorded by government and voluntary organisations for conservation and preservation of the monumental heritage.

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